

Clinton reaffirms support for Arafat

GAZA CITY (AFP) — U.S. President Bill Clinton sent a letter to Palestine National Authority (PNA) Chairman Yasser Arafat expressing support and pledging to back peace efforts in the Middle East, officials said Saturday. U.S. Health Secretary Donna Shalala delivered the letter to Mr. Arafat during a visit here Saturday. Mr. Arafat's spokesman Nabil Abu Rudeina said the PNA leader sent a response to Mr. Clinton through Ms. Shalala. Mr. Clinton's support comes as Mr. Arafat's Palestinian self-rule authority recovers from the worst violence in the Gaza Strip since it took charge six months ago. Ms. Shalala, who toured health facilities here, told reporters the United States would back the Palestinians at a meeting of international donors to be held in Brussels next Tuesday and Wednesday (see page 12). Palestinians have complained that they have received only a small proportion of the promised \$720 million in international donations for 1994. They are expected to push for more assistance at the Brussels meeting, stressing the dangers of violence linked to poverty and frustration in Gaza.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جورديان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة تصدر عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الرأي"

Army deployed in S. Indian state

NEW DELHI (AFP) — The Indian army was called out Saturday to restore peace in the southern state of Kerala after two people died and scores more were injured during a violent communist-backed general strike. Press reports said. Police fired warning shots in at least five places in the coastal state to disperse rampaging crowd during the dawn-to-dusk strike, which was accompanied by bomb blasts, arson and a spate of knifings, the Press Trust of India said. A right-wing activist was killed in a bomb attack in the district of Kozhikode while a member of a communist faction died after being knifed in the town of Allapuzha, the news agency said. Troops in battle fatigues marched in Kannur town, where five communists were killed Friday when police opened fire to break up a massive anti-government demonstration by two leftist student groups. Civil authorities sought army assistance in Kannur after hundreds of people attacked police stations and stoned government vehicles during Saturday's strike to protest the shooting deaths, PTI said. Scores of people were injured in knifings and stone-throwing in Kannur and elsewhere in the state.

Volume 19 Number 5778

AMMAN SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1994, JUMADA ALTHANIA 23, 1415

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

Palestinians rally in Jerusalem

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Palestinians clashed with Israeli police on the main street of Arab East Jerusalem on Saturday. A police spokeswoman said two Arab youths threw firebombs at police and were arrested. A witness said two youths were seized by plainclothes policemen who took them away in a police van. Palestinians said the clash began with a sit-in by relatives of Palestinian prisoners held in Israeli jails, demanding their release. Demonstrators burned one tyre in the street.

Sudan rights body claims successes

KHARTOUM (AFP) — Sudan's recently established human rights committee claimed Saturday that it had secured the release of four detainees and resolved a dozen other cases, as well as investigating the alleged summary execution of two Sudanese working for international organisations. But committee members attacked the United Nations special rapporteur on human rights, Gaspar Biro, and defended the right of the Khartoum government to defend its territory. They also accused the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army of carrying out human rights abuses, including executions, the burning of mosques and the enforced conscription of youths, saying the international community had "turned a blind eye" to such abuses.

Algerian forces kill 49 rebels

TUNIS (R) — Algerian security forces shot dead 49 armed Muslim rebels in the past three days in 12 areas across Algeria, the official Algerian news agency APS said on Saturday. The fundamentalists, fighting to overthrow the army-backed authorities, were killed in clashes and raids between Wednesday and Friday, APS said. Among those slain were two militants sentenced to death by a special court and freed from their cells by armed guerrillas in a raid last March on Tazoult high security prison in eastern Algeria, the statement said. Seventeen other guerrillas were also reported earlier this week as having been shot dead including 13 killed in a forest near the western town of Tipaza, 60 kilometres from Algiers.

14 Iraqis demand asylum in Greece

ATHENS (AFP) — Fourteen Iraqis demanded political asylum in Greece on Saturday after spending 48 hours cooped in a transit room at Athens airport, police said. A Greek lawyer notified of the immigrants' plight made an official request for their case to be heard, a police source said. Airport police refused to allow the 14 to enter the country after Albania threw them out Thursday. They had reached Albania by air from Amman, police said, adding that Athens airport authorities had at first kept the affair under wraps to allow them time to try to persuade the Iraqis to return home. The ministry for public order is now to examine the immigrant's asylum plea.

500 guns stolen from Egypt store

CAIRO (AFP) — Five hundred automatic rifles and revolvers were stolen from an arms store belonging to the security forces in southern Egypt, police said Saturday. Interior Minister Hassan Ali Ali has ordered an inquiry with police in charge of security at the depot after the weapons went missing last week. Security forces have recovered about 100 of the stolen weapons during a sweep of arms smugglers in the Qena province, 650 kilometres south of Cairo.

JD 1.674b draft budget focuses on development

Deficit cut to JD 50m; no plans to raise fuel prices; hopes high for aid

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Finance Minister Sami Gammoh Saturday unveiled a JD 1.67 billion draft budget for 1995 with a deficit of JD 50 million.

The 1995 budget reflects a 10 per cent increase of last year's budget of JD 1.5 billion.

Mr. Gammoh told a press conference that the JD 50 million deficit reflected a dramatic drop from 1994's shortfall of JD 300 million. It was approved by the Council of Ministers on Saturday and would go to Parliament this week.

"It is an ambitious and optimistic draft budget in finance with the Kingdom's aims in the next peace phase and the coming era in the Middle East," Mr. Gammoh said.

The budget envisages JD 443.1 million in capital spending and set aside an extra JD 390 million as extra capital budget for development projects — but implementation hinged on expected 1995 foreign aid.

Mr. Gammoh said 1995 capital spending took into account multi-billion dollar projects to develop Jordan Rift Valley between Jordan and Israel and building water dams in line with the peace treaty the country signed on Oct. 26.

The budget estimates foreign grants at JD 165 million, compared with 1994's JD



Sami Gammoh
167.3 million.

"We will work at getting this assistance and grants to finance it because we have received many promises and we hope 1995 will be the year we see their materialisation," Mr. Gammoh said.

The minister said the government wanted to encourage investments to generate more jobs and raise standards of living instead of raising public sector wages.

The budget includes the following main points:

Public revenues are estimated at JD 1.624 billion, marking an increase of JD 129.7 million over the re-assessed 1994 budget, or 8.7 per cent growth according to the following:

1. Domestic revenues for 1995 are estimated at JD 1,400 million compared to JD 1,270 in the reassessed 1994 budget, an increase of JD 130

million, or 10.2 per cent.
2. Premium on repayable loans are estimated at JD 59 million for 1995, up from JD 55 million in 1994.

Capital expenditures are estimated at JD 1.674 billion, registering an increase of JD 234.9 million over the reassessed figures of the 1994 budget, accounting for 16.2 per cent in accordance with the following:

(i) Current expenditure is estimated at JD 1,230.9 million, marking an increase of JD 1,112.4 million over the re-estimated figures of the 1994 budget of JD 1,118.5 million — a 10 per cent increase.

(ii) Capital expenditure is estimated for 1995 at JD 443.1 million, registering an increase of JD 122.5 million over the re-estimated figures of 1994 which amounted to JD 318.6 million; an increase of 28.5 per cent. The increase primarily stems from expected hikes in expenditure in telecommunications, transport, water, tourism, and dams.

The 1995 draft fiscal budget contains an additional capital budget estimated at JD 390 million to finance projects given priority in the peace era and to cover the needs of governorates where they are intended to help create new jobs, stem poverty and raise the standard of people's living. These projects will be financed from

(Continued on page 7)

Hamas holds huge but peaceful rally in Gaza

Combined agency dispatches

GAZA — Thousands of supporters of the militant Hamas group held a peaceful rally in a tense Gaza City on Saturday, eight days after clashes between the group and Palestinian police in which 14 people died.

Organisers said about 20,000 people participated in the rally, a memorial service for Hamas activist Imad Akel who was slain by Israeli soldiers. Palestinian soldiers were not in evidence, witnesses said.

Speakers hit out at the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), in charge of self-rule in Gaza, and at Israel. Hamas opposes the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation autonomy as a sell-out.

Masked men burned the flags of Israel and the United States in front of the cheering crowd.

The master of ceremonies greeted members of the Izzeddin Al Qassam Brigades, Hamas's military wing, and said: "We want to make it clear that the bullets of Qassam will be fired only against the Israeli occupation."

Since the Nov. 17 clashes, the bloodiest since self-rule began in May, the various Palestinian factions have been negotiating to prevent further internal fighting.

The two-hour demonstration was unruly but dispersed without bloodshed.

"This is a message to (PNA President Yasser) Arafat that the opposition outnumbered the supporters of peace in Gaza," said Sayid Aby Jiyab, a 19-year-old student.

The calls for bloodshed against Israel gradually switched to severe attacks on Mr. Arafat, with speakers accusing him of shirking responsibility for the Palestinian police losing control last week.

"This is your peace Arafat. It is massacres and assassinations," said Sheikh Ahmed Bahr, prayer leader of the Palestine Mosque where



Hamas activists shout anti-Israel and anti-Yasser Arafat slogans Saturday in Gaza City as they wave pictures of Hamas leader Imad Akel, killed a year ago by Israeli troops (AFP photo)

police opened fire. The PLO accused Islamic agitators of firing first, a charge the prayer leaders demand they prove.

The rally on a soccer field started with activists burning an Israeli flag. The chants against Israel reached a fever pitch when two Israeli helicopters buzzed overhead, with the crowd screaming: "We want to die for the sake of our God."

The Israeli army and Palestinian police backed up their forces at a junction near the Jewish settlement of Netzarim on the city's outskirts. Four soldiers have been killed there in November and troops feared that rally might spark a march on the settlement of 180 Jews.

Rally speakers demanded the dismantling of all Gaza settlements before they spark civil war between Palesti-

nians. They also demanded a halt to arrests of Islamic activists and a dialogue among all political groups.

The two main Islamic opposition groups, the Islamic Resistance Movement or Hamas and Islamic Jihad, have staged a series of violent attacks on Israeli targets over the past two months in an attempt to derail the Israel-PLO self-rule accord. Mr. Arafat's administration, seeking to spread the accord into the occupied West Bank, seeks to crack down on the violence.

Under an agreement worked out between the self-rule government and the Islamic opposition, the Palestinian police agreed to keep a low profile around the rally if the militants avoided parading their weapons and agitating

the crowd.

Mr. Arafat on Saturday ordered an investigation into Friday's clashes at the camp. The head of Mr. Arafat's Fatah militia in Lebanon, Lieutenant-Colonel Khaled Al Shayeb, said the clashes were sparked by a power



UNDER FIRE: A woman looks up at a burning ship and anti-aircraft fire slammed into the house in Sarajevo after it was hit by a shell as city Saturday (see page 5) (AFP photo)

Jordan and Israel today announce diplomatic ties

Muasher confirmed as envoy in Tel Aviv; Barak tipped to be Amman counterpart

By Caroline Faraj
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan and Israel today announced the establishment of diplomatic ties between them.

The announcements will be made at 11 a.m. in a joint communiqué.

It is expected that Jordan will announce the appointment of Marwan Muasher as the Kingdom's ambassador to Israel.

Israel was reportedly considering outgoing Israeli chief of staff, Ehud Barak, as its envoy in Amman. Officials said that it was highly likely that Mr. Barak would be confirmed as Israel's first ambassador to Jordan.

Dr. Muasher was the Kingdom's spokesman during the Middle East peace negotiations. He also served as director of the Jordan Information Bureau in Washington.

Based on decisions taken by the Jordanian and Israeli cabinets in implementation of the peace treaty signed by the two countries on Oct. 26, a Jordanian delegation headed by Omar Al Rifai, an advisor at the Foreign Ministry, will



Ehud Barak

Thursday visit Tel Aviv to make the necessary arrangements to open the Jordanian embassy there.

The Jordanian delegation will also hold administrative and diplomatic contacts related to opening the embassy and selecting suitable areas for the residence of members of the Jordanian diplomatic mission in Israel. The visit will last for two days.

Informed sources told the Jordan Times that it was possible that the delegation will rent a house or a suite at one of Tel Aviv's hotels in view of the short time facing the two countries in order to meet the Dec. 10 deadline set by the peace treaty for the two countries to open embassies in each other's capitals.

Israel is expected also to do the same in Amman.

The source expected that the Israeli and Jordanian embassies will have a staff of six to seven people; four will be diplomats and the rest will work as advisors and administrators.

Israeli delegation headed by Assistant Foreign Minister Eitan Ben Tsour will arrive in Amman Thursday on a two-day visit to the Kingdom.

The delegation will hold talks on Jordanian-Israeli relations and the implementation of some of the peace treaty's provisions.

Meanwhile Israel radio said Environment Minister Yossi Sarid had made a "private" visit to Jordan on Friday where he met Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and Transport Minister Samir Qawar at Karameh in the Jordan Valley.

Hrawi warns of intervention to quell Palestinian fighting

BEIRUT (Agencies) — The government warned warring Palestinian factions Saturday that it would send its army into refugee camps to quell any renewal of fighting, which killed 10 people and wounded 25 the day before.

A government statement said President Elias Hrawi made his stern warning after discussing with visitors Friday's street battles between Yasser Arafat's loyalists and forces at Ain Al Hilweh shanty-town, the biggest refugee camp in Lebanon.

Lebanese police described the clashes as the worst in Lebanon since the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) signed the self-rule accord with Israel Sept. 13, 1993.

At stake was control of the sprawling camp that houses 60,000 Palestinians on the southeastern outskirts of Sidon, 40 kilometres south of Beirut.

The clashes tapered off at nightfall with both sides more or less back where they were when the fighting started.

Mr. Hrawi said Lebanese troops have surrounded 'Ain Al Hilweh to prevent the conflict from spilling into the streets of Sidon. Provincial capital of South Lebanon and the country's third largest city.

"The Lebanese authorities have warned the fighters in 'Ain Al Hilweh that they will give orders to quell any recurrence of the fighting," Mr. Hrawi said. "Lebanon will not remain neutral if similar incidents recur."

The clashes pitted loyalists from Fatah, Mr. Arafat's mainstream faction, led by intelligence chief, Kemal Medhat, against dissidents, headed by Rebel chieftain, Munir Maqdash.

Muslim fundamentalists from Islamic Jihad and Hamas and Syrian-backed groups also took part in the fighting, siding with the rebels.

Colonel Maqdash defected from Fatah in protest against the 1993 autonomy accord. Like many opponents of the deal, he said it killed Palestinian aspirations for an independent Palestinian state in territories occupied by Israel in 1967.

Dozens of families fled to the nearby southern port of Sidon.

Mr. Arafat on Saturday ordered an investigation into Friday's clashes at the camp. The head of Mr. Arafat's Fatah militia in Lebanon, Lieutenant-Colonel Khaled Al Shayeb, said the clashes were sparked by a power

struggle within the ranks of Fatah forces in the camp. Palestinian sources said guerrillas by Colonel Maqdash then joined in the day-long clashes.

Lebanese troops have maintained posts and checkpoints around 'Ain Al Hilweh ever since they fought fierce battles there with PLO guerrillas in 1991 in eventually successful attempts to take the guerrillas' heavy weapons.

Security sources said during Friday's clashes the army had increased checkpoints at the entrance to the camp.

The Arafat opponents managed to regain control of six positions lost to guerrillas loyal to Mr. Arafat earlier on Friday.

A Renter correspondent who toured the sprawling camp south of Beirut said Mr. Arafat's Fatah guerrillas, numbering about 650, and some 200 dissident fighters led by Col. Maqdash manned their respective posts.

Not a shot was fired after midnight, he reported, quoting Palestinian and Lebanese security sources.

The correspondent said the rival factions, armed with AK-47 rifles, remained inside or stood outside their posts, some of which are less than 20 metres apart.

Majali to visit UAE soon

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Saturday announced that he would soon make an official visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE), adding that Jordan's relations with all the Gulf states were improving. Speaking at a meeting with the Lower House of Parliament Foreign Affairs Committee, Dr. Majali said that Jordan was exerting all possible efforts towards bridging the gap with other Arab states and seeking solidarity among Arab and Islamic nations.

Jordan's relations with the Arab countries are marked with mutual and brotherly respect, and they are continuously improving, said the prime minister, who added that Saudi Arabia's approval of Jordan's nomination of a new ambassador to Riyadh was a positive indication of improved relations.

Describing his recent visit to Qatar as extremely successful, Dr. Majali said he discussed with the emirate's leaders all issues of common concern as well as the Palestinian problem.

Relations with Kuwait are showing signs of improvement after Jordan explained its position, reaffirming its determination to protect Kuwait's sovereignty and territorial integrity, Dr. Majali said.

Dr. Majali said the Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee could convene next month to examine close cooperation between the two countries in various fields.

Dr. Majali said Jordanian-Syrian ties were good but Jordan was pursuing efforts to further improve them. He said Jordan hopes Syria would regain all its occupied territories.

He said Jordan maintains a unique relationship with the Iraqi people and tries hard to lift the embargo on them and end the tragedy and the sufferings of the Iraqi people after Baghdad has complied with all relevant U.N. Security Council resolutions.

Dr. Majali said there were no direct contacts with the Palestine National Authority (PNA) although the Palestinian brothers had promised to return to Amman in two weeks to resume talks, after a round of meetings in October.

But, he said, the Palestinians seem to be involved in their internal affairs and Jordan is determined to help end the sufferings of the Palestinian people and provide facilities to them across the bridges.

Dr. Majali said Jordan would never allow the disputes between Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to spill over to Jordan. Nor would Jordan support one party against the other, he said.

Referring to the situation in the former Yugoslavia, Dr. Majali said that Jordan had been increasing its contacts with various nations in efforts to lift the siege on Bosnia and ending the massacres there. He said Jordan was doing all in its power to help the Bosnians overcome their ordeal.

Jordan's relations with European countries and the United States are excellent and Jordan was expecting more U.S. and European economic aid to the Kingdom, Dr. Majali said.

He said Jordan was maintaining contacts with Japan to help organise the Amman economic conference to be held in the spring of 1995.

Abdul Karim Kabariti, chairman of the House Foreign Relations Committee, said at the outset of the meeting that the Kingdom's foreign policy had focused on the Arab-Israeli conflict in view of the need to deal with some of the pressing issues and to protect its interests and security.

Mr. Kabariti said Jordan's policy had always viewed inter-Arab relations as relations between a united Arab

(Continued on page 7)

Jordanian traders leave for Baghdad

AMMAN (Agencies) — A group of Jordanian businessmen left for Iraq on Saturday in an attempt to revitalise trade links with Baghdad and discuss future cooperation.

The 25-man team, headed by Hamdi Tabbas, president of the Jordanian Businessmen's Association (JBA), will spend four days in Baghdad at the invitation of the Iraqi Union of the Chambers of Commerce.

The group is one of the largest to visit Iraq since the United Nations slapped a sweeping trade embargo on Baghdad after it invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

JBA officials said the team would meet the Iraqi minister of trade and other leading public and private sector figures to discuss business deals with Iraq.

Scores of Western businessmen, encouraged by prospects of an imminent easing of sanctions after Iraq recognised Kuwait's new U.N. demarcated borders, have been visiting Iraq to look for business opportunities.

Iraq remains Jordan's biggest trade partner despite an Iraqi dinar crisis and the sanctions, which have barred all business deals except for food, medicine and other

humanitarian needs.

Iraq still gets most of its U.N.-authorised imports via Amman.

Most Jordanian businessmen say they remain wary of deals with Iraq, mainly because of over-ordering by their Iraqi counterparts and the financial risks involved.

Earlier this week, team member Ali Yousef told the Associated Press that the Jordanian private sector had to boost its links with the Iraqi market so as to be ready when the sanctions are lifted.

The embargo was imposed by the U.N. Security Council following Iraq's Aug. 2, 1990 invasion of Kuwait. Iraq was evicted from Kuwait in February 1991, but the sanctions remain in place pending Iraq's full compliance with U.N. cease-fire terms.

Unlike the United States and Britain, the other three permanent members of the Security Council — China, Russia and France — advocate the easing of the embargo, which includes a ban on Iraqi oil sales, the country's economic mainstay.

Before the Kuwait invasion, annual trade between Iraq and Jordan amounted to \$700 million, including Iraqi oil sales to the Kingdom.



CLASHES IN LEBANON: Munir Maqdash (centre), Fatah's former military chief opposed to Yasser Arafat, is surrounded by his militiamen Saturday after he regained

control of the 'Ain Al Hilweh refugee camp in South Lebanon following clashes with Arafat supporters (see page one) (AFP photo)

Ghali holds talks in Algeria

TUNIS (R) — U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali, in North Africa to try to rescue a stalled peace plan for the Western Sahara, on Saturday met Algerian President Liamine Zeroual in Algiers.

Algerian state radio said the two men discussed cooperation between the country, racked by civil strife, and the United Nations, and peace efforts in the Western Sahara.

Algeria is the main supporter of the Polisario Front whose guerrillas are seeking independence for the Western Sahara, a former Spanish colony claimed by Morocco.

Dr. Ghali, who arrived in Algiers on Friday and held immediately talks with Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi, was accompanied by his Special Representative for the Western Sahara Erik Jensen.

On Saturday, Dr. Ghali met Algerian Foreign Minister Mohammed Salah Dembri. The U.N. secretary-general was due to fly later to the southwest Algerian town of Indouf, the main base of Polisario guerrillas.

Algerian radio, reporting from Tindouf, said the Polisario leaders hope to hear new proposals from Dr. Ghali when they meet him there on Sunday.

Both Morocco and the Polisario Front, which says its self-proclaimed republic in the Western Sahara is recognised by more than 70 countries, blame each other for the much-delayed peace plan.

Dr. Ghali told the Security Council recently that a repeatedly postponed referendum to give Saharans a choice between independence and integration with Morocco could not take place on Feb. 14, 1995 because of continued disputes over who could vote.

A 320-strong U.N. force called Minurso, the U.N. Mission for a Referendum in Western Sahara, has been registering voters in the territory since Aug. 28. But only a very few applicants have been identified for registration.

Polisario leaders have accused Morocco of attempting to pad the electoral roll with supporters from outside the territory.

Disturbing world statistics of water very relevant to Mideast

Special to the Jordan Times

NEARLY four million children die every year from polluted water. About 1.2 billion inhabitants of the Earth suffer from water shortages and around 800 million people around the globe have no access to uncontaminated water.

FAO (Food and Agriculture Organisation) statistics indicate. That is a good enough reason for everyone to think of the means to address the situation — one of the "silent emergencies" that challenge the world today.

Michel Afram, dean of the Faculty of Agriculture at St. Joseph University in Zahle, Lebanon, says that one third of the population in developing countries have no access to drinking water and that around 50 per cent of the households in the Third World are not linked to water supply systems.

Quoting Russian scientist Al Vovitski, Mr. Afram says that in the year 2000 the all available fresh water resources would be needed to dilute the existing waste waters.

The causes of water scarcity partly natural, but mostly man-made, according to Mr. Afram.

Quoting FAO statistics, he says that 600 million inhabitants of the earth live in arid and semi-arid zones, with average annual precipitation less than 300 millimetres, including almost the entire population of the Arab World.

Nevertheless, "the worldwide water shortage is not so much an issue of quantities available but rather a problem of distribution and infrastructure," Mr. Afram told the participants of a regional seminar on water use optimisation in agriculture which concluded in Amman on Thursday.

According to FAO, of the available 1.4 billion kilo-cubic-metres (KCBM) of water in the world only three per cent could be used immediately by human beings, the remaining 97 per cent being either saline sea water or frozen water at the poles.

Mr. Afram added that of the existing 1,800 CBM freshwater per earth inhabitant/year, not more than an average 800 CBM per inhabitant/year were currently exploited.

Environmental pollution, climatic changes leading to an increasing number of both floods and droughts, desertification, population growth and industrial and economic development were the main reasons of the increasing worldwide water shortage, Mr. Afram said.

"In 1940, the world population consumed around 100/CBM per year," he explained. "Currently, human beings consume an estimate 4130 KCBM per year, and water consumption is estimated to reach 5190 CBM per year by the year 2000," Mr. Afram said.

Mr. Afram lamented the widespread irresponsible use of water resources, saying that "among the natural elements, water is the most polluted one." He said that deforestation, i.e. the cutting of trees, had weakened the soil's capacity to withhold water in many areas, thus leading to erosion and desertification.

Mr. Afram demanded that the protection and storage of water should be given foremost priority, apart from creating new water resources, like, for example, desalination. He stated that only 40 per cent of the flood waters in Europe, Africa and North America are currently being stored.

Quoting the example of Lebanon, Mr. Afram said his country's water resources theoretically were more than sufficient to meet the population's needs. Lebanon's total precipitation amounts to 8,600 million cubic metres (MCM) per year, while the country's current water demand does not exceed 3300 mcm per year. "But half of the precipitation is lost because of evaporation," he said. Another 510 MCM of water from Al Asi and Al Kabir rivers go to Syria, Mr. Afram said.

Israel, in the self-declared "security zone" in South Lebanon utilises an estimated 160 MCM from the Hasbani River and it gets another 160 MCM from groundwaters of the River Dan, Mr. Afram added.

In spite of that, with a remaining 3480 MCM of surface and ground water available per year, Lebanon theoretically would still be able to meet its water demand. "But because of the drought in summer and the lack of storage facilities, more than half of our surface and groundwater resources are getting lost every year," said Mr. Afram.

He recommended building storage facilities, water harvesting and afforestation to exploit Lebanon's water resources more efficiently.

In neighbouring Syria, most of the small and medium size rivers are contaminated by the discharge of sewage systems and industrial effluents, said Mr. Abdallah Droubi from the Arab Centre for Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD). He said that surface water in the Damascus and Aleppo areas had been polluted because of industrial expansion and lack of sanitation facilities, and that shallow aquifers had been partly polluted by these surface waters.

In addition, some coastal and arid regions of Syria have been contaminated by salt water, Mr. Droubi said, adding that the Dawa and Radd basins and the Latakia and Akkar coastal plains were particularly concerned by salination.

He said that water logging and soil salination had also occurred in several parts of the rift valley and in a large part of the Euphrates plain.

Mr. Droubi recommended establishing a strong political and organisational framework to ensure environmental pollution control and reinforce water resources management and water legislation. "Water policy should be strongly linked with environmental policy, they should have the same objectives," he said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iraq calls on Israel to sign nuclear treaty

BAGHDAD (AFP) — A senior official on Saturday called on Arab countries to put pressure on Israel to join the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. "The Arab Nation has to get rid of all weapons of mass destruction and the Arabs must force Israel to sign the nuclear non-proliferation treaty," said Saad Kassem Hammudi, from the ruling Baath Party's external affairs department. "It is not just necessary to make Israel sign this treaty, but also to ensure its installations and nuclear programmes are subjected to close surveillance," he added. He told the Iraqi daily Babel that "the United States is backing and encouraging Israel (in its nuclear programmes) to force the Arabs to join in the peace process." U.N. Security Council resolutions imposed on Iraq after the 1991 Gulf war called on Baghdad to destroy its arms of mass destruction and agree to the setting up of a long-term weapons monitoring system. Israel has neither confirmed nor denied reports it possesses nuclear weapons.

Refugees flee Somali fighting

ADDIS ABABA (AFP) — About 20,000 Somali refugees have crossed the border into Ethiopia to escape recent clashes in the self-styled independent state of Somaliland, an official Ethiopian newspaper said Saturday. The Addis Zemen newspaper said 19,531 Somali refugees and displaced persons had sought refuge in Ethiopia and were currently living in five camps along the frontier. The Ethiopian government expressed dismay at the new arrivals at a time when there are already 185,000 refugees on its soil. The latest influx coincided with a week of clashes between the forces of the "president" of Somaliland, Mohammed Ibrahim Egal, and troops loyal to his predecessor Abdul Rahman Ahmad Ali "Tuur", who founded the breakaway "republic of Somaliland" and was ousted in February 1993. Mr. Tuur now opposes independence for Somaliland and has rallied to one of Somalia's warlords, General Mohammed Farah Aideed. On Nov. 18, Mr. Egal reported that attacks by rebel militias in Hargeisa, the main town of Somaliland had left 60 civilians and eight of his troops dead. Ethiopia has started a programme of voluntary repatriation for Somali refugees which is due to continue until the end of March but Addis Zemen says it has run into trouble and the local authorities in charge of looking after the refugees complain that the international community is not doing enough to solve the problem.

Baby born with single eye and no nose

CAIRO (AFP) — A Egyptian woman has given birth to a baby girl with a single eye planted in the middle of her face, the semi-official daily Al-Ahram said Saturday. The child has no nose or eyebrows on her large, square face and her eye is sited like a black point in the middle. Al-Ahram published a photograph of the baby who is on a life support system and in a critical condition after being born to a 40-year-old Enbaba Ahmad Tammam. Doctors, who say they have never come across such a case, believe the child's disfigurement could have been caused because her mother married her cousin, a practice which is very common in Egypt. The mother, who comes from the Beni Suef province, 130 kilometres south of Cairo, has already had six children and two miscarriages.

European defence officials visit UAE

ABU DHABI (R) — The Netherlands defence minister and senior officials from France and Britain are visiting the United Arab Emirates, the official Emirates News Agency (WAM) reported on Saturday. Dutch Defence Minister Joris Voorhoeve arrived in the UAE on Saturday and met senior officials, the agency said. It did not say how long he would stay or what he would discuss. France's army Chief of Staff Admiral Jacques Lanxade is also currently visiting the UAE, according to separate WAM reports, as an adviser to Britain's Defence Ministry. Embassy officials were not available to comment on the purpose of the visits, which are prior to the UAE's IDEX 95 Defence Exhibition in March next year. At the last IDEX in 1993, the UAE made a major order for French Leclerc battle tanks. Britain has some military personnel training the UAE's armed forces.

Ten die in floods in Iran

TEHRAN (AFP) — Massive floods have killed at least 10 people in southwestern Iran and caused widespread damage in more than 20 cities around the country, state television announced Saturday. Torrential rains which have been falling since Tuesday and overflowing rivers in five provinces have caused infrastructural damage in 23 cities, it said. Bushehr, Kermanshah, Khuzestan, Lorestan and Hamadan — in south, southwestern and western Iran — were most affected. More than 700 villages have been surrounded by water and some 10,000 homes as well as thousands of hectares (acres) of farmlands have been inundated. Deputy Interior Minister Rasoul Zargar said. Floods, caused by torrential rain, also hit the capital late Friday, notably the south and central districts of the city.

GCC countries discuss power grid

RIYADH (AP) — Ministers of power and water from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) met Saturday to discuss several proposals, including setting up a \$1.6 billion unified electricity grid. The grid would link Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain and Qatar as part of the first phase of a joint programme. Oman and the United Arab Emirates, farther south on the Arabian Peninsula, would be linked later. Recommendations of the ministers will be presented to the GCC heads of state when they meet for their annual summit conference, scheduled this year for Dec. 19-21 in Manama, Bahrain. Qatar has proposed a joint power plant, with the cost shared by all six GCC states. The ministers will review the initiative along with proposals on electricity and water usage. Almost all the GCC countries have started a drive recently to conserve power and water.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 Alice Au Pays Des Merveilles
17:30 Un Pour Tous
18:30 Le Vent Des Moutons
19:30 News in French
19:30 Ushuaia
19:30 Michalis Navy
20:30 The Phantom Horsemen
21:10 Quantum Leap
21:10 Sherlock Holmes
22:00 News in English
22:30 Scarlett
23:10 The Upper Hand

PRAYER TIMES

04:48 Fajr
06:10 Sunrise
11:23 Dhuhr
14:13 Asr
16:30 Maghrib
17:58 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Sweith, Tel. 810740
Assembly of God Church, Tel.
632785
St. Joseph Church, Tel. 624900
Church of the Annunciation Tel.
627440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrasanta Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel.

622541
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel.
628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel.
771331
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel.
652526
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel.
824328
German-speaking Evangelical Church
Tel. 684195
The Lutheran Day School Tel. 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691
The Evangelical Local Church in
Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department
of Meteorology.

A cold air front will affect the
Kingdom, this temperature will
drop steadily with slight clouds.
Rainfall is expected at intervals
with winds westerly moderate to
active. In Aqaba, skies will be
partly cloudy with a chance of
showers, winds southerly active,
and seas choppy.

Min./Max. temp.
Amman 4/10
Aqaba 9/21

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Deceits 5/13
Jordan Valley 10/13

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 12, Aqaba 21 Humidity
readings: Amman 72 per cent,
Aqaba 27 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Ghaleb Zaenidch 736011
Dr. Yousef Nasr 751144
Dr. Khalid Asfour 666873
Dr. Adnan Zaghoul 696140
First pharmacy 661012
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asma pharmacy 637055
Nairookh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Simcikani pharmacy 637660
Nairookh pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:
Dr. Mohammad Al Khalil 273099
Aqaba pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:
Dr. Ghassan Fagih 906130

Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 630941
Rescue Police 192 621131, 637777
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 845845
Traffic Police 963390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 661176
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 615615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-33300
Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-33300

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 642481/6
Akilch Maternity, J. Amn 642481/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhe, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 664111/4
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Musader Hospital 662227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26
Army, Marica 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155

ZARQA:
Zarga Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarga National Hospital (09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)986732

IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)725555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)727275
Ibn Al Nafies Hospital (02)547100

AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)914111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by
Royal Jordanian (RJ) information
department at the Queen Alia International
Airport Tel. (05)53200.
5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

05:30 Bangkok (RJ)
06:30 Beirut (RJ)
06:30 Frankfurt (RJ)
06:30 Vienna (RJ)
06:30 Rome (RJ)
06:30 New York (RJ)
06:30 Athens (RJ)
06:30 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
06:30 Aqaba (RJ)
06:30 Jeddah (RJ)
06:30 Damascus (RJ)
06:30 Larnaca (RJ)
06:30 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
06:30 London (RJ)
06:30 Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
06:30 Athens (RJ)
06:30 Frankfurt (RJ)
06:30 Vienna (RJ)
06:30 Rome (RJ)
06:30 Aqaba (RJ)
06:30 Cairo (RJ)
06:30 Istanbul, Paris (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

12:35 Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF)
14:25 Moscow (SU)
20:05 Cairo (MS)
20:20 Beirut (ME)
22:55 Istanbul (TK)
01:10 Amsterdam (KL)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

05:30 Aqaba (RJ)
06:30 Beirut (RJ)
06:30 Frankfurt (RJ)
06:30 Vienna (RJ)
06:30 Rome (RJ)
06:30 New York (RJ)
06:30 Athens (RJ)
06:30 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
06:30 Aqaba (RJ)
06:30 Jeddah (RJ)
06:30 Damascus (RJ)
06:30 Larnaca (RJ)
06:30 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
06:30 London (RJ)
06:30 Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
06:30 Athens (RJ)
06:30 Frankfurt (RJ)
06:30 Vienna (RJ)
06:30 Rome (RJ)
06:30 Aqaba (RJ)
06:30 Cairo (RJ)
06:30 Istanbul, Paris (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

07:10 Rome (ME)
07:45 Beirut (AZ)
15:30 Doha, Muscat (GF)
16:30 Moscow (SU)

21:00 Cairo (MS)

02:20 Amsterdam (KL)

HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 6:00 a.m. every Monday
Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple 700/500
Banana 600/400
Banana (Mukammal) 620
Cabbage 120/70
Carrot 300/180
Cauliflower 300/200
Clementine 300/200
Cucumbers (large) 150/70
Cucumbers (small) 340/120
Eggplant 330/200
Garlic 750/500
Grape Fruit 300/200
Lemon 320/180
Marrow (large) 180/70
Marrow (small) 340/200
Olive (green) 600/450
Onion (green) 500/300
Onion (dry) 420/300
Orange 620/300
Pepper (hot) 520/250
Pepper (sweet) 320/200
Spinach 350/200
Tomato 320/200
String beans 650/400



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Saturday meets with visiting Australian parliamentarian Tim Fischer (Petra photo)

Visiting Australian deputy discusses parliamentary, trade issues with officials

AMMAN (J.T.) — Visiting Australian parliamentarian Tim Fischer, who is also leader of the National Party of Australia, Saturday met with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, Speaker of Senate Ahmad Lawzi, Speaker of the House Sa'd Hayel Srour and senior government officials to discuss prospects for promoting trade and economic relations.

Dr. Majali briefed Mr. Fischer on the latest developments in the Middle East peace process and the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty, and discussed scopes of cooperation between Jordan and Australia in several economic, scientific and trade arenas.

Mr. Fischer, who arrived from Israel Thursday on a four-day visit to Jordan, met earlier with Amin Hussein, secretary general of the Amman Chambers of Commerce and discussed prospects of direct commercial flights between Australia and Jordan.

He also met with Ministry of Industry and Trade Secretary General Mohammad Smadi and discussed convening the joint Jordanian-Australian trade committee meeting in Amman in February 1995. Mr. Fischer, who is also shadow minister for trade in Australia, met with Senate Speaker Ahmad Lawzi to acquaint himself with Jordan's parliamentary life

French manufacturers seek joint projects

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Thirty French manufacturers and exporters seeking export orders as well as agency arrangements and technology transfer Saturday opened an exhibition in Amman in what French officials described as an event that would help boost Franco-Jordanian business links.

The exhibition, opened by Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Lawzi at Philadelphia Hotel, includes several key sectors of high importance to Jordan — water technology, agriculture, construction and foodstuffs — as well as computers, packaging industries and hospital furniture.

Most of the companies represented in the exhibition come from Montpellier in southern France under the umbrella of a regional chamber of commerce.

It is the second French commercial exhibition of its kind to be held in Jordan organised by the Montpellier-based SAM International Trade headed by a French-Arab, Nadia Manchet.

Ms. Manchet organised the first exhibition of French medical equipment and related products in Amman in April and plans to organise a broader one in 1995 with the participation of two chambers of commerce in France. Only 15 firms were represented

in that event.

Cooperating with SAM International for the current event is local firm, Somer Company Limited for Projects, Trade and Agencies.

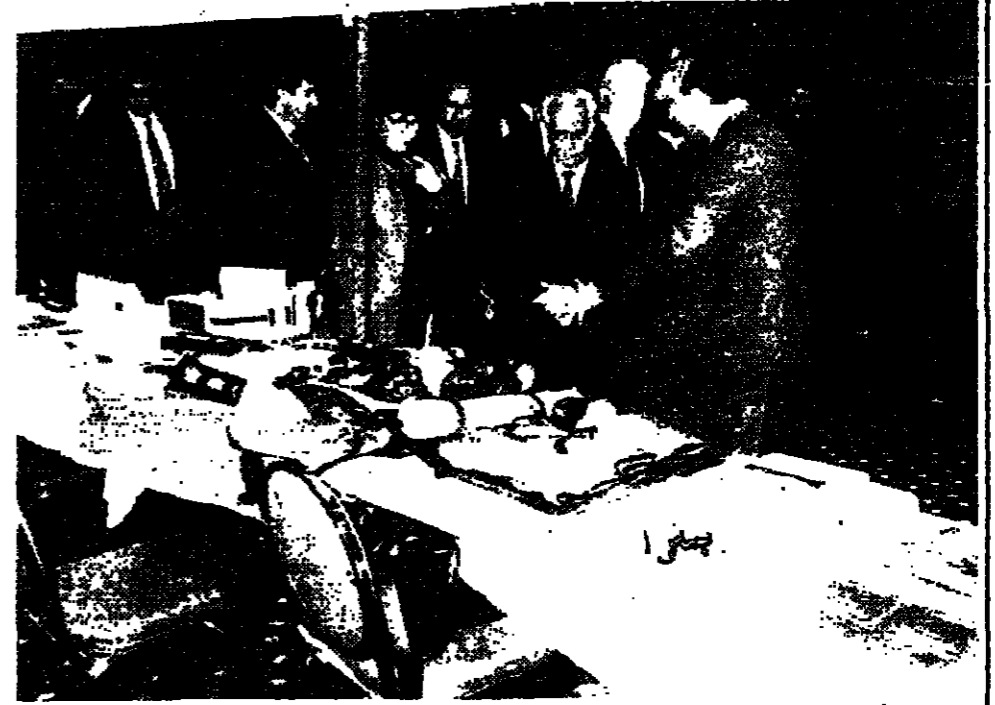
Addressing a press conference early Saturday, Ms. Manchet and Dominique Guy-Chevane said French industries and exporters were taking strong interest in setting up business links with Jordan, particularly after the signing of the Jordan-Israel peace treaty.

They said the current exhibition was mainly aimed at the Jordanian market, and expanding its reach to other areas and countries in the region though the Kingdom was not an immediate priority.

However, both of them expressed confidence that Jordan could grow to be a key link in regional trade as peace takes hold in the Middle East.

Michel Duger, economic counsellor at the French embassy, told the press conference that French firms did not appear to be too keen on developing joint ventures with Jordanian firms if only because of the small size of the Jordanian market.

However, Ms. Guy-Chevane noted that the Montpellier region of France had a population of only two million, and many of the companies in the area felt that Jordan, with a population of four million, was good enough for a start.



Senate Speaker Ahmad Lawzi Saturday views French products on display at an exhibition he opened at Philadelphia Hotel (Petra photo)

Mr. Duger said the exhibition in Amman was strictly a private sector affair, and the French mission here was only acting in an advisory capacity.

He noted that French firms were getting increasingly involved in contracts in Jordan and noted that French companies had signed several medium-size projects in the Kingdom, including a gas turbine power project worth \$16 million, a \$8 million telecommunications project, a \$25 million project related to a compound fertiliser project at

Aqaba in addition to silos in Russeifa.

French exports to Jordan totalled \$200 million in 1993; this year the figure is expected to go up by more than 10 per cent.

Jordan's exports to France amounted to around \$2 million, according to the Department of Statistics.

Exhibitors in the week-long display include manufacturers and producers of water and waste treatment plants, medical instruments, construction material, agricultural machin-

ery, cosmetics, fruits, fruit juices, foundation treatment equipment, maps, clothes, communication equipment, motors and pumps, filters, hospital furniture, fertilisers, electric power generators, computers and packaging as well as Renault cars.

The firms' representatives will also be holding talks with government officials as well as private sector organisations to explore and develop means to transfer technology and set up agency arrangements, Mr. Duger said.



Students Saturday protest at the University of Jordan campus against academic regulations (photo by Rana Hussein)

Students protest exam regulations

By Rana Hussein and Cathy King

Special to the Jordan Times
AMMAN — Students at the University of Jordan Saturday protested against examination regulations and threatened to boycott classes and organise further protests and demonstrations if negotiations with the university administration proved unfruitful.

According to university academic regulations, current examination regulations stipulate that those retaking courses they have failed can only attain a maximum of 60 per cent and at the same time, the failing grade would not be added to the students' grade point average.

"We did not demonstrate here today for political reasons, we only want our rights as students," said a student union member addressing a peaceful protest of men and women outside the Faculty of Economics and Commerce.

"We know that our university is among those prominent in Jordan, and we all want to obtain recognised degrees, and it is upon this that we have based our recommendations and demands,"

he added.

The student union, which organised the protest, called upon all students to unite with them, and issued a list of demands asking the administration to adjust these regulations.

"Now the ball is in your court. You have elected us (the student union) and we represent you and your demands, but you too are responsible to determine whether or not these rules are changed," said another student to the outdoor gathering while other students not braving the cold listened from surrounding classrooms.

"I would like to remind you that we are challenging the unjust regulations, we are not challenging the university president. But we want our demands met in full and we will not give up," he added. Dean of Students' Affairs Mohammad Khreisat defended the university position saying the students had no right to discuss academic regulations.

"The students who retake courses are less than 7 per cent (of the student body) and we can't change our regulations for this number,"

Dr. Khreisat told the Jordan Times late Wednesday.

One student from the crowd explained how he had provided a medical certificate to excuse him from taking an exam, but he said his teacher failed him. "I repeated the course and scored a 90 per cent, but because of the rules my grade was recorded as 60 per cent," the student said.

The student union has two proposals, either change the regulations, or at least increase the maximum percentage to 75 for students who retake courses instead of the present 60 per cent.

"There are many prominent universities all over the world who do not enforce these regulations, and they are more successful than our university," claimed one of the protesters.

"We are going to distribute a petition to be signed by all students in support of our demands to be handed to the administration on Monday evening," said a protest organiser at the end of the 30-minute demonstration. Dr. Khreisat said the university administration and representatives of the students union would meet today to discuss the issue.

Road safety seminar looks at Swedish experience

AMMAN (J.T.) — Swedish Ambassador to Jordan Christian Bausch Saturday said that his country was intent on contributing towards Jordan's efforts to deal with the chronic issue of road accidents and traffic problems.

Speaking at the opening of a two-week training seminar on road safety organised by the Traffic Department, the ambassador said that Sweden has provided traffic and road safety experts to help the Traffic Department cope with related problems.

According to the ambassador, the traffic problems result from three elements: motorists and pedestrians who use the roads, and the condition of vehicles and roads, noting that accidents, which are increasing in number annually, costing the

country lives and property damage.

According to Public Security Department (PSD) statistics obtained Saturday, a total of 24,799 road accidents occurred in Jordan during 1993, causing the death of 440 persons and injury to another 11,754.

The PSD said that a total of 38,652 vehicles were involved in accidents on Jordan's roads last year.

Mr. Bausch said he expected the number of road accidents in Jordan to rise in the era of peace because of increased traffic expected as a result of rise in the level of shipped goods and road travel.

Brigadier Nimer Hmoud, director of the Central Traffic Department in Amman said his office continues to coordinate with the other govern-



Participants at the road safety seminar, which opened in Amman Saturday attend the opening session

ment departments and the Swedish experts operating in Jordan under the terms of an agreement on technical cooperation in order to reduce the number of road accidents and stem traffic related problems.

He said the Traffic Department organised four previous training courses for traffic police who learned about

Sweden's methods of traffic control.

Major General Muayyad Mubaslat, assistant PSD director for traffic affairs, opened the meeting saying that the PSD was taking every possible measure to deal with traffic issues.

Several working papers to be reviewed at the seminar

cover such issues as licensing of vehicles, prevention of road accidents, traffic lights, training of driving instructors, rules concerning traffic regulations, traffic issues and other related topics.

The participants will participate in workshops and visit areas of high traffic congestion.

'Arab Afghans' to be sentenced on Dec. 7

AMMAN (AP) — Twenty-five people implicated in a campaign to destabilise the Kingdom with a spate of bombings and assassination plots will be sentenced on Dec. 7, the state Security Court announced Saturday.

The three-man tribunal convened for a few minutes Saturday to announce the date for both the verdicts and sentencing after the prosecution and defence concluded their cases.

Since the trial began Aug. 27, the prosecution has produced confessions, evidence and witnesses against the defendants, three of whom are being tried in absentia after evading a security crackdown in February that resulted in the arrests.

The others were rounded up after several bombings across the country which targeted mainly movie theatres showing pornographic films and liquor stores. They also have been charged with plotting to kill politicians involved in peace talks with Israel and attack Western targets.

If found guilty, the men, most of them in their mid-20s, could be sentenced to death.

State witnesses, mostly police officers, testified that primitive explosive devices that were seized from the homes of some of the defendants matched those that had exploded in Jordan in late 1993 and early this year.

Five defendants maintain they are innocent. The rest have pleaded guilty.

Some of the defendants have retracted pre-trial confessions, claiming they were extracted under duress.

The accused are known as "Arab Afghans," a nickname given to volunteers who fought along with the Afghan Mujahideen against the Soviet army in the 1980-1990 Afghan war.

The prosecution said that they were financed by Osama Ben Laden, a Saudi Arabian millionaire of Yemeni origin who shifted his bankrolling operations in Afghanistan to Muslim countries after the end of the Afghan war.

Mr. Ben Laden, who is believed to be living in Sudan, allegedly also is backing extremists in Egypt and Algeria seeking to overthrow these regimes and replace them with puritanical Islamic governments.

Proposed UNIMED centre to play key regional role

AMMAN (Petra) — The University of Jordan and the Rome-based University of Mediterranean (UNIMED) Saturday agreed to sign an accord to establish a regional centre for UNIMED at the University of Jordan.

According to an announcement by University of Jordan President Fawzi Gharaibeh, the agreement aims to coordinate cooperation between the two universities in the exchange of teaching staff, scholars and researchers and defining fields of common interests among Jordanian universities and others participating in UNIMED programmes.

In Jordan only the University of Jordan and Al al-Bayt University are members of the UNIMED group of 51 universities in the Mediterranean region.

UNIMED is sponsored and financed by the European Union (EU).

Speaking in an opening address at the meeting of the UNIMED higher committee,

Dr. Gharaibeh said the University of Jordan actively cooperates with other universities and institutions, adding that the university has scientific and academic agreements with universities and organisations around the world. UNIMED President Franco Rizzi delivered an address saying the peace era in the Mediterranean region will have a great influence on bringing future projects between the region's universities to success.

Speakers at the ceremony also included President of the Second University of Tunisia Ali Bousneina who said he hoped that the UNIMED centre to be opened at the University of Jordan will play a key role in the development and success of the Arab universities in the region.

Chairman of the Architectural Engineering in Department at the University of Jordan Kamel Mahadin, who represents UNIMED at the university, said the centre will have a major role in

attracting the best of the region's professors for academic research and cooperation. He said it will also provide an opportunity to Jordanian universities' academic departments to join UNIMED's research networks.

Also Saturday, the UNIMED delegation, accompanied by Dr. Gharaibeh, was received by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, a former University of Jordan president himself.

Dr. Majali was briefed by the visiting delegation on UNIMED's goals aiming to enhance cooperation between the region's universities in the fields of the environment, science, engineering, agriculture, economy, literature, arts and architecture.

The prime minister said Jordan was always keen to cooperate with scientific and academic institutions, especially those in the Mediterranean region.

Commerce group seeks expanded cooperation with Dutch businesses

AMMAN (Petra) — Amman Chamber of Commerce Chairman Mohammad Asfour Saturday said that Jordan looks forward to joint economic ventures with the Netherlands, but added that he hoped that cooperation would not be confined to providing Dutch technical and administrative assistance to the Kingdom.

Speaking at a meeting with a visiting Dutch trade delegation, Mr. Asfour said he would like to see active participation and partnership in economic schemes and Dutch assistance in opening new markets for Jordanian goods in the European countries.

A spokesman for the Dutch team told Mr. Asfour that his country was eager to advance economic ties with Jordan, especially in the new era of peace and as Jordan is playing a key role in the Middle East.

The visiting delegation welcomed ideas from the Jordanian business community aimed at increasing bilateral economic and trade ties.

The Dutch team groups representatives of food and other industries who are here to explore areas for joint investments, according to a chamber statement.

The statement said that Jordan's imports from the Netherlands rose from JD 24 million in 1983 to JD 62 million this year, while ex-

ports to Holland rose from JD 25,000 in 1983 to JD 10 million last year.

Jordan imports mainly live cattle, fresh meat, milk, cheese, seeds, cooking fat and oil and exports phosphate, potash and limited shipments of fruits and vegetables.

Mr. Asfour said he hoped that joint ventures would play a role in helping to adjust the balance of trade between the two countries and create new jobs in Jordan.

The chamber statement said that the Dutch delegation was expected to meet with Jordanian businesspersons and tour industries in the country.

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILM

★ Film entitled "Operation Petticoat" at the American Center at 5:00 p.m.

CONCERT

★ Concert at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

CHARITY BAZAAR

★ Charity bazaar (includes books, tapes, clothes, and accessories) at Mu'tah University.

EXHIBITIONS

★ Exhibit entitled "Signs and Symbols: Communication and Interpretation from the Brandywine Workshop" at the American Center.

★ Ceramics exhibition by Mahmoud Taha at Darat Al Funun.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Majali to visit new IDB head

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Sunday will visit the Industrial Development Bank (IDB) to meet with its newly-appointed general manager, Rajab Al Saad. Mr. Saad succeeded Taher Kanaan as the bank's new general manager. Since 1973 until his appointment, Mr. Saad was the bank's deputy general manager.

Jordan to attend ISESCO meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will participate in the fifth session of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ISESCO) which will open in Damascus Sunday. Jordan will be represented at the meeting by Minister of Education Abdul Raouf Rawab-

deh who left for the Syrian capital Saturday. The four-day conference will discuss several issues related to the organisation's three-year plan, the conditions of the holy city of Jerusalem under Israeli occupation and ISESCO's role in supporting cultural and educational organisations in member states.

House environment panel considers amending laws

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament Health and Environmental Safety Committee Saturday discussed ways of revising and updating related legislation. The committee, meeting under Chairman Deputy Ahmad Qudah, decided to ask the minister of health to supply the committee with information on health services offered in Jordan by the private and public sectors.

Opposition claims to have seized power in Chechnya

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Opposition forces claimed Saturday to have seized power in the former Soviet Republic of Chechnya, after a bloody battle in the capital Grozny, Russian news agencies reported.

Umar Avturkhanov, the chairman of the opposition Provisional Council said opposition forces had taken power from President Dzhokhar Dudayev, the ITAR-TASS news agency reported.

A Dudayev government spokesman said however that the opposition tank assault had failed and that 200 rebels had been killed and that 20 of the force's 30 armoured vehicles had been destroyed, Interfax News Agency reported.

The fierce battle that started early Saturday centred around the presidential palace, which government forces successfully defended. There was also fighting around the television tower and the Department of Security, Interfax said quoting the government chief of staff.

The Russian Federal Counter-Intelligence Service told Interfax in Moscow that the television tower had been taken by the opposition. But the government chief of staff said government forces had retaken the vital installation.

The opposition forces, armed and paid by Russia, penetrated the capital of the breakaway republic and appeared to be taking the upper hand after four hours of fighting, an AFP correspondent reported from Grozny.

Opposition units could be seen controlling the major

entrances to Grozny and were attacking the city centre from three directions, he said.

Mr. Dudayev, a former Soviet Air Force general who declared this mostly Muslim Caucasus Republic independent from Russia in 1991, was directing his forces from the presidential palace, Interfax News Agency said, giving no source.

But the opposition appeared to dominate the city after committing its full force of about 2,500 men, 20 tanks and about 15 other armoured vehicles to the offensive, which began with a massive helicopter attack on the city outskirts Friday.

Mr. Dudayev's forces numbered an estimated 1,200 men, including those holed up around the presidential palace, where four dead soldiers and three destroyed armoured cars could be seen.

Opposition spokesman Ruslan Martagov said early Saturday his forces had taken control of the internal security and interior ministries, although this was denied by government spokesmen, Russian news agencies reported.

No aircraft were seen in the latest fighting which began early in the morning. But Mr. Dudayev's vice president, Zyelimhan Yandarbiyev, said five opposition helicopters had attacked during the fighting, Interfax reported.

On Friday 40 helicopter gunships bearing Russian markings pounded the Grozny Airport and other government-held positions, according to Russian news agencies. The offensive by the pro-

Russian opposition, which has suffered in the past from a lack of cohesion between three main rival factions, was being led by Beslan Gantemirov.

The streets rang with the hammer of machinegun fire, two buses were burned out and almost no civilians ventured outdoors, although a few audacious kiosk owners remained, open near the battle area selling cigarettes and snacks.

Mr. Dudayev has been under massive pressure from Moscow and its allies within Chechnya since he was elected president in 1991 and immediately declared his oil-rich Muslim republic of 1.2 million people independent.

The opposition, grouped under what it calls the Provisional Council, admits to being funded and armed by Russia, but both the Council and Moscow deny Mr. Dudayev's accusations that Russian troops are taking part in the conflict.

Mr. Yandarbiyev also told Interfax that three Russian crews had been captured in Saturday's fighting, Interfax said.

The assault was the first time opposition troops had fought their way into the city centre after months of sporadic, low-level warfare.

Six rebels were killed and another 10 wounded in Grozny Saturday, ITAR-TASS said.

TASS quoted a spokesman for the Provisional Council as saying the losses were caused mainly by government snipers on the top of the presidential palace in central Grozny.



A Chechen soldier stands on an APC, guarding the presidential palace on the central square of Grozny, the capital of the secessionist Russian republic of Chechnya (AFP photo)

Party revolt against Major is seen crumbling

LONDON (R) — A party revolt against Prime Minister John Major over Europe was crumbling Saturday, but rebels showed their anger by accusing him of Nazi-style tactics and of making the government a laughing stock.

A small core of right-wing Conservative members of parliament had threatened a showdown with major Monday in a vote on a bill to boost Britain's payments to the European Union (EU).

But Mr. Major threatened he would call an election if they scuppered the bill and potential cabinet rivals for his job vowed not to stand in his way.

On Friday, an amendment to the bill was tabled by 18 defiant rebels — unlikely to be enough to defeat Mr. Major who can rely on Northern Irish allies to bolster his slim majority of 14 seats.

But, amid claims that Conservative leaders were pressuring local branches effectively to sack any members of

parliament who rebelled, some appeared to back off, but angrily.

"The cabinet will win its vote Monday but in the process has made itself the laughing stock of the British people," Sir George Gardiner, one of the 18, told a party meeting.

Sir Nicholas Fairbairn, an outspoken critic of Mr. Major's record as leader, compared his drastic efforts to bring rebels into line with Nazi Germany.

"I am not going to see democracy have its face rubbed in the dirt, elected members of parliament treated like delegates to the Nuremberg rally in which they raise their hands and say 'heil Hitler'," he told BBC Radio Scotland.

Bill Cash, a prominent rebel, played down widespread speculation that anti-European Conservative members of parliament would mount a leadership challenge against Mr. Major later in the week.

Clinton changes to deal with a new Washington

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bill Clinton, who took office vowing change, is revising everything from his rhetoric to his staff as he faces a dramatically different political world in Washington.

Mr. Clinton, spending the Thanksgiving holiday weekend at Camp David, has been doing extensive soul-searching in the wake of elections that put Republicans in charge of both the House and Senate for the first time in more than 40 years.

"My job is to stand up for the interest of ordinary Americans," Mr. Clinton told reporters earlier in the week in defining his new role as a president whose followers Democrats are in the minority.

"That's what I will do," he said. "I will do my very best to work with them (Republicans) where we can work together."

The words reflect a different, more humble Clinton. When he took office nearly two years ago, Mr. Clinton talked more ambitiously — about changing the world. Now the world of Washington has been changed.

Republicans will be in charge when the new Congress takes over in January, and Mr. Clinton is stressing his "centrist" side — the one that shares common ground with the new powerbrokers. The ripples from the election are likely to wash away some of the players now in the administration — with White House political director Joan Baggett the first victim. Officials say her replacement soon will be announced.

It appears likely that Press Secretary Dee Dee Myers, who survived an earlier attempt to oust her, will be replaced — probably by State Department spokesman Mike McCurry.

Lloyd Cutler, who was brought in temporarily as Mr.

Clinton's legal adviser and continues as a White House consultant, candidly acknowledges the need to overhaul the communications operation.

"One could argue that a more experienced press team, one that came from the ranks of journalists, and that the journalists trusted, should be brought in to replace the Clinton press team," Mr. Cutler said in an interview in the current issue of Columbia Journalism Review.

Ironically, the rise of Republicans to power has tempered some of the calls for a more massive shake-up of the administration, according to insiders.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher, whose days at the State Department appeared numbered earlier in the year, now is expected to remain in his post.

Officials say Mr. Clinton now has too many other more pressing concerns and no desire to add to the workload by nominating a new secretary of state — a process that would require confirmation hearings before a Senate Foreign Relations Committee headed by Senator Jesse Helms, a Clinton critic.

Although Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen has denied speculation he was considering stepping down soon, economic adviser Robert Rubin has been mentioned as a possible successor.

Mr. Clinton will soon name a replacement for Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy, who announced his resignation following news reports he accepted gifts from companies regulated by his department.

Texas Governor Ann Richards, who on Nov. 8 lost her reelection bid to George Bush, the son of the former president, has been mentioned as a possible replacement for Mr. Espy.

Roger Moore's wife denies marriage rift

LONDON (AFP) — The wife of former 007 Roger Moore insisted that their marriage is not over, despite rumours of an affair with a blonde millionaire, in an interview in Saturday's Daily Mirror. But Luisa Moore admitted that they had been separated for 12 months after 26 years of marriage. Luisa claimed Christina was just another woman who was "trying to spread a rumour that they are in love." "Our marriage is not over," she insisted. Speaking at her Beverly Hills home, Luisa said it was the former James Bond's cancer that drove them apart, not his relationship with Christina Tholstrup, a friend of Denmark's Queen Margrethe. "Our separation is not because of that woman... she's just not a person Mr. Moore is likely to be with. The mentalities are totally different," she said. Moore, 68, whose 12-year stint in the Bond films began in 1973, was admitted to hospital in Los Angeles a year ago for surgery on his prostate. He then underwent six months of rehabilitation and drug therapy.

Police raid yields nude photos of Dewi Sukarno

BANGKOK (AFP) — A police raid on a Bangkok house yielded hundreds of pornographic video cassettes, magazines and books, one of which contained nude photos of the widow of the late Indonesian President Sukarno, a news report said Saturday. Police raided the house earlier this week after receiving complaints that many schoolchildren in the area possessed pornographic material. The Nation said. Found in the house were 700 pornographic movies and 600 magazines and books, one of which contained nude photographs of Dewi Sukarno, the jetsetting widow of President Sukarno, it said. Police arrested two men and charged them with producing, possessing and distributing pornographic material. The publication last year of Syuga, a book that featured nude photos of Japanese-born Dewi Sukarno, sparked outrage and protests in Indonesia. Some members of parliament urged the government to strongly warn her, while others called for legal action since she was still an Indonesian citizen. The Indonesian government last November banned the book, saying it could besmirch the name of the country's first president, insult Indonesians and create "uneasiness" among the people that could disrupt public order.

Madonna's baseball uniform auctioned for \$12,300

TOKYO (AFP) — A baseball uniform worn by pop star Madonna in the film A League Of Their Own fetched 1.21 million yen (\$12,300) in an auction here. A 44-year-old office worker successfully bid for the uniform. The auction also included items worn by U.S. sports figures.

Chinese city to fine residents for allowing flies

BEIJING (AFP) — The southern Chinese city of Guangzhou has launched an intensive campaign against flies, stipulating heavy fines of 2,000 yuan (\$235) for every insect discovered, the Beijing Daily said Friday. The municipal government took the decision to introduce the fine in recent days, as part of efforts to rid the booming city of flies, the report said. It cited two recent cases of restaurants being punished after flies were discovered in the establishments. The Huangsha Restaurant was fined 15,000 yuan and ordered to clean up its act when dozens of flies were found hovering on live fowls kept in cages by the door, and at least 10 were discovered in the kitchen, it said, adding that the Yuyuan Restaurant was forced to pay 10,000 yuan for just two flies. China's Communist authorities have launched numerous campaigns against certain animals and insects, with a nationwide call for the elimination of sparrows during the Cultural Revolution among the most well-known cases. During Beijing's bid last year to host the Olympic Games, the municipal authorities ordered the number of flies in the capital to be cut to a set level in order to impress International Olympic Committee delegations.

E. Timor governor urges end to unrest

JAKARTA (AFP) — The governor of East Timor Saturday called for an end to the unrest which has plagued the former Portuguese colony since Nov. 12, the third anniversary of a massacre of East Timorese protesters by Indonesian troops.

Speaking to a gathering of 15,000 people in the territory's main city Dili, Governor Abilio Jose Osorio Soares called the unrest "a disturbing development" undertaken by a minority of East Timorese, police and military sources said.

A spokesman in the governor's office said Mr. Soares also appealed in his hour-long speech to the people of East Timor to stay away from any further demonstrations.

The gathering was called by Mr. Soares in the wake of civic unrest that started on Nov. 12, the third anniversary of the Dili massacre in which Indonesian troops killed scores of pro-independence demonstrators.

The disturbances left one person dead and several injured in Dili. A total of 30 people have been arrested so

far, and the spokesman said they would be tried on criminal charges.

East Timor military spokesman Major Laedan Simbolon said by telephone that there was a small commotion at the end of Saturday's gathering, with young people throwing plastic water bottles into the crowd.

Maj. Simbolon dismissed the incident as negligible and said no arrests were made.

But sources in Dili said four youths were arrested after they were caught throwing stones at the gathering.

Rainier undergoes heart surgery

PARIS (R) — Prince Rainier of Monaco underwent heart bypass surgery Friday, the palace announced.

There was no immediate word on his condition following the operation.

The surgery was performed on Prince Rainier, who is 71 years old, on Friday afternoon at Monaco's Centre for Heart and Thoracic Medicine, according to a statement.

The decision to operate was made a few days ago by Dr. Jean-Joseph Pastor, the prince's long-time heart spe-



Prince Rainier

cialist, following a regular checkup, the statement said.

A bypass operation is usually carried out when the small blood vessels serving the heart muscle become blocked due to age and disease and are surgically replaced with healthy vessels grafted from another part of the body, such as the leg.

Bangladesh Muslims vow to block Commonwealth visit

DHAKA (R) — Radical Muslims threatened on Saturday to stop any new move by Commonwealth Secretary-General Chief Emeka Anyaoku to mediate in Bangladesh's political crisis, including blockading the capital's airport.

"We will resist any plan by Emeka (Anyaku) to visit Bangladesh. We will besiege

the airport so he cannot enter the city," said Moulana Fazlul Huq Amin, leader of the United Action Council, in a statement.

"He has no business here," Opposition forces said. Chief Anyaoku would be welcomed only if his ideas dovetailed with their persistent demands that the government step down and allow

a neutral, caretaker administration to call early elections. An official said Chief Anyaoku was prepared to return to Bangladesh after his envoy, Sir Ninian Stephen, failed to broker an agreement.

Sir Ninian left Dhaka Monday after five weeks of exhaustive, but unsuccessful, diplomacy.

"Emeka (Anyaku) has offered to make himself available for a second go in the mediation effort, but he made no definite proposal nor set any date."

The official said Chief Anyaoku made his offer in separate messages to Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and main opposition leader Sheikh Hasina.

Cambodia general: Massacre is a lesson for Thais

PHNOM PENH (Agencies) — A Cambodian army commander said Saturday Khmer Rouge guerrillas were responsible for the massacre of more than 20 Thai loggers but his troops could not take action because the killings were in a guerrilla-controlled area.

Lieutenant-General Khan Savoeun, commander of the Fourth Military Region, said the killings this week should be a warning to Thais not to do business with the outlawed rebel faction.

"It didn't take place in our area. It happened in the Khmer Rouge-controlled zone. Therefore, we can't do anything about it," he told Reuters.

A senior Thai army source earlier confirmed that 24 people, including some Cambodians, had been massacred in the remote Chom Khsan district in Cambodia's far-northern Preah Vihear province.

Gen. Savoeun said that central Chom Khsan district was held by the government but "some remote bushy areas were controlled by the

rebels."

Khmer Rouge Radio monitored in Phnom Penh Saturday denied responsibility for the massacre.

"The national army of Democratic Kampuchea (Khmer Rouge) immediately and absolutely deny this fabricated, cheating and common play," the radio statement said.

But one survivor, who was shot in the arm as he escaped, told Reuters in Bangkok that Khmer Rouge rebels had rounded up 33 Thai workers and demanded a five million baht (\$200,000) ransom from their Thai employers.

When their demands were not met, the Khmer Rouge lined the loggers up and shot them, the survivor said.

Gen. Savoeun said the Thai loggers were murdered on the orders of the notorious one-legged Khmer Rouge Commander Ta Mok, whose nickname is "the butcher."

Ta Mok, a veteran Khmer Rouge commander during the "killing fields" era, earned his nickname for a series of bloody purges

against politically suspect eastern zone cadres in the late 1970s.

The Khmer Rouge were responsible for the death of at least one million Cambodians from execution, disease and starvation during their brutal reign from 1975 until 1979.

Cambodians have little sympathy for Thais who continue to do business with the Khmer Rouge and General Savoeun said the massacre revealed the insurgents' true nature.

"It's the Khmer Rouge's nature. They not only kill them (Thais) but also Khmers," he said.

"It's a warning that they (Thais) should not deal with the Khmer Rouge any longer."

Meanwhile, Cambodian co-defence Minister Tea Banh said Saturday that the military had recently purchased 40 tanks from the Czech Republic and another 50 from Poland.

He added that 10 armoured personnel carriers (APCs) would also be arriving with the tanks, but re-

fused to say when.

"The Royal Cambodian Armed Forces cannot just use their empty hands to defend their territory... so we need arms to defend ourselves."

A senior defence official, who asked not to be identified, said the Russian-designed T-55 tanks and APCs had been bought cheaply.

"The price of each tank was less than a Toyota Land Cruiser," the official told AFP.

First Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh recently told reporters that the Defence Ministry had been scouring the world for good deals on armaments.

He said the army planned to buy AK-47 guns and ammunition from South Africa. "South Africa got them very cheap," he said.

The government had also bought arms from the Seychelles, the prince said. These were obtained at half price because the weapons had been part of a smuggled shipment seized by the Seychelles authorities.

Party rebellion threatens Murayama

TOKYO (R) — Rightwing Socialists threatened Saturday to break away from Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama's party by January, a move which could bring down his five-month old coalition government.

Seventy-eight lawmakers, mostly right-leaning Socialists but including some from centrist allies in the Sakigake Party and the opposition Shinseito, took part in a rally at which the threat was aired, group officials said.

Their objective was survival. Political analysts say the Socialist rightwingers and like-minded colleagues in other parties started the movement to prevent themselves being sucked into an emerging two-party system.

Last week parliament enacted long-pending political reform bills to introduce a single-seat electoral system, the first overhaul of Japan's constituencies in 70 years. This has accelerated a political realignment.

Last week 10 non-Communist opposition parties decided to unite to form the "New Frontier Party" and

elect a party chief next month.

The Frontiers have a single aim — to force Mr. Murayama to call early general elections and grab power from him and the long-ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), the dominating bloc in his ruling coalition.

Murayama need not call elections before 1997 but he could be forced to do so if the Socialist right bolted from the coalition and robbed him of a working majority.

Mr. Murayama's three-party alliance holds 294 seats in the 511-member lower house, the decisive chamber.

The closely watched list of participants in Saturday's meeting included about half of the 72 Socialist lower house members. It was not clear if everyone taking part was firmly committed to a new party since the rally was only dubbed a symposium.

"Political realignment is just about to start," Socialist Party Secretary-General Wataru Kubo said in his address. "We must select with the people this colour, words and the standard-bear-

er of a new political creed."

The leader of the group, former Socialist Chairman Sadao Yamahana, said his group would try to persuade the Socialist Party to hold a convention in January to dissolve the party in favour of a new, enlarged party.

If the Socialist leadership refused, Mr. Yamahana said, the group would formally break away on Jan. 17, just before parliament convenes for a regular 150-day session.

No vote was taken and it remained to be seen just how many lawmakers Mr. Yamahana and Mr. Kubo could get to join a new party.

Mr. Murayama's leftist supporters in the Socialist Party, while not totally opposed to forming a new party out of the current grouping, fear it could mean a swing to the right and splintering of leftist forces.

"Nobody wants a small party," Murayama spokesman Kozo Igarashi told a separate news conference Saturday. "If we must form a new party it should not be a tiny force. We must preserve party unity."

Situation in Bihac critical as rivals fight near hospital

SARAJEVO (R) — Muslim and Serb forces fought close to a hospital crowded with war wounded in Bihac town Saturday and United Nations peacekeepers described the situation in the U.N.-designated "safe area" as critical.

The Bosnian Serb Army (BSA) gave the town's government defenders an ultimatum to surrender by 8 p.m. (1900 GMT) after capturing up to 25 per cent of the U.N. protected zone around it.

U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) spokesman Jan-Dirk Merveldt said fighting

erupted during Saturday morning on the edge of the safe area two kilometres from the hospital and added:

"If you were in the hospital, you would hear and feel it and you might perhaps think you were in the middle of it."

Conditions for about 70,000 Muslim civilians in the northwestern Bosnian town were increasingly desperate.

Colum Murphy, deputy head of UNPROFOR civil affairs, told reporters that peacekeeping efforts had reached a crunch point. "I won't hide from you the fact

that this certainly is a critical time."

The Serbs, undeterred by NATO air strikes, said they had encircled Bihac town with only one road left open to allow refugees to flee north to safer Muslim-held territory.

Families who wanted to escape were charged 50 German marks (\$35) a litre for blackmarket fuel when they could find it.

Front lines between the two sides were unchanged during the night despite some shelling and other exchanges



A radio operator (right) speaks from the Bosnian presidency to people in Bihac. According to Radio Bihac the fighting is

continuing in the Bosnian enclave despite an earlier agreed ceasefire. (AFP photo)



Nikola Koljivic (centre), close aide to Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, gestures as he talks to journalists after the U.N.-mediated Bosnia-Herzegovina (AFP photo)

of fire but U.N. peacekeepers said the satellite village of Vedro Polje was added to Serb gains Friday.

General Manojlo Milovanovic, commanding the Bosnian Serb tank and artillery onslaught on the enclave, set the surrender deadline on Friday night.

He guaranteed the safety of civilians and of soldiers of the government army's 5th Corps who laid down their rifles.

Gen. Milovanovic promised not to harm General Atif Dudakevic, commander of the Bosnian army 5th Corps in Bihac, if he joined the surrender but added: "If he rejects (the ultimatum), he will be fully responsible for the suffering of his troops."

The U.N. saw the ultimatum as a threat to over-run Bihac, an act of defiance from which Serbs avoided in previous assaults on safe areas such as Gorazde and Srebrenica in eastern Bosnia.

It would be the most serious challenge to their authority that U.N. countries have faced in efforts to restore peace in Bosnia after 32 months of fighting.

UNPROFOR's Murphy said U.N. diplomatic efforts Saturday would be intense and continuous on the part of senior U.N. officials who were concerned that a turning point might have been reached in the conflict.

"It is quite clear we have failed to deter an attack on the safe area," he added. "What we do about it now is the important thing. Clearly all of us have failed up to this point."

Serb political leaders increased pressure on the Bosnian government to accept a permanent ceasefire across

the country.

Momcilo Krajisnik, a hard-line member of the Bosnian Serb leadership, said: "If the Muslims reject our offer, the only thing we can do is to declare a state of war on our entire territory and finally defeat the enemy."

The Bosnian government in Sarajevo is ready to sign only a three-month ceasefire, worried that anything longer might help the Serbs keep all of the 70 per cent of Bosnia they now hold.

The United States, keen to take a tougher line against the Serbs but unable to persuade its West European and Russian allies to follow suit, stepped up its own military presence in the Balkan region.

The U.S. Defence Department ordered 2,000 Marines and sailors with three amphibious ships to deploy in the Adriatic Sea off Bosnia.

"The move, which is strictly

precautionary, is a prudent measure to enhance the capabilities of our forces supporting the U.N. given the continuing hostilities in the region," a Pentagon spokesman said.

No U.S. soldier has set foot on Bosnian soil so far in the war where the burden of peacekeeping has fallen mainly on Britain and France.

A senior U.N. source hinted that NATO warplanes could be in action again against Serb forces around Bihac after being fired on by surface-to-air missiles Friday night.

U.N. Undersecretary-General Kofi Annan said in New York: "I suspect the planes will be back tomorrow (Saturday)."

NATO hit the Serbs with three big air raids this week at the U.N.'s request.

Yasushi Akashi, the senior U.N. representative in for-

mer Yugoslavia said there was "large risk of collateral damage to civilians" from air strikes as the fighting reached the town.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev warned Friday that further NATO military involvement in and around Bosnia could undermine international peacekeeping efforts.

Mr. Kozyrev, who was due in Belgrade to meet Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, said Moscow would oppose a U.S. plan to widen the safe area around the town of Bihac.

Bosnian Serbs issued an air raid alert Saturday in western areas of the country they control, according to rebel Bosnian Serb television monitored here.

The air raid warning was issued in the regions of Prijedor, Bosanski Novi, Sanski Most and Drvar, at 2:43 p.m. (1343 GMT), the

television said.

A U.N. source told AFP the Serbs may have been reacting to what he termed a "routine patrol" by NATO aircraft over in the region.

The sources said, however, that up until 3 p.m. (1400 GMT) the United Nations Protection Force in Bosnia had not asked the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) to carry out any air strikes Saturday against the Bosnian Serbs.

Meanwhile at least one man was wounded Saturday afternoon as shooting flared in Sarajevo forcing pedestrians once again to run for their lives.

There were a number of explosions on the town's main thoroughfare, known as "Sniper's Alley", and sniping was recorded in different points.

A 37-year-old man, Sadik Kablar, was wounded in the leg.

Indian states start crucial polls

NEW DELHI (R) — Voting began in the south Indian state of Karnataka Saturday, starting two weeks of intense anxiety for Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao that could affect his future.

Only on Dec. 9 will results start flowing in from Karnataka and three other states voting for assemblies in election which are widely seen as a referendum on Mr. Rao's leadership and a pointer to the next general election.

Goa and Sikkim have already voted and the tough Chief Election Commissioner T.N. Seshan, who has changed the nature of Indian campaigning, has decreed that no counting will take place till after Andhra Pradesh ends voting on Dec. 6.

That is to ensure, he says, that results in one area do not influence voting in another.

It is the Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh votes that count for Mr. Rao and his Congress Party, which rules

both states.

Opinion polls, political analysts and even senior Congress officials say things are looking bad for the party in both states, despite cheery statements predicting certain victory from Mr. Rao and regional Congress leaders.

The minute the prime minister declared that these polls were not a referendum on his leadership, we knew we were in worse trouble than we thought," said one senior Congress official who asked not to be identified.

Predictions are complicated by Mr. Seshan's clampdown on irregularities that were an everyday feature of past elections.

He is scrutinising election expenses intensely, insisting all politicians stick to a strict code of conduct he has issued and providing heavy security that has almost eradicated the violence usually associated with election campaigns.

Political analysts say all this could lead to a higher

turnout, especially among women and low-caste people often too scared to go and vote.

In Karnataka, where most pundits predict a hung assembly, the left of Centre Janata Dal is seen as likely to emerge as the biggest party. It could form the government with the help of breakaway Congress faction.

In Andhra Pradesh, the regional Telugu Desam Party is in a neck and neck race with Congress and local opinion polls predict it could pull off a stunning win that would seriously embarrass Mr. Rao in his home state.

"If he can't win his own state, what prospects are there of him leading us to victory in 1996 (general elections)?" groaned the senior Congress official in New Delhi.

Should the predictions come true, Mr. Rao is likely to be challenged again from within Congress.

2 die in bomb attack on Pakistani mosque

LAHORE, Pakistan (R) — Masked motorcyclists hurled a grenade into a mosque in the Pakistani city of Lahore Saturday, killing two worshippers and wounding 20, police and hospital sources said.

It was not immediately clear if the assault was revenge for a bus attack Friday in which seven Shi'ite Muslims were killed and 14 wounded near Jhelum town in Punjab province.

Police said the attack occurred when Sunni Muslim worshippers were preparing to recite afternoon prayers at a mosque near a police station in the central lower mall district of the provincial capital.

Police had earlier put the death toll at three, but hospital sources said two people had been killed and one was in very critical condition. Six others had head wounds.

Two masked youngsters drove up to the Bait-ul-Islam Mosque on a motorcycle. One threw a Russian-made grenade at the congregation of about 50. They fired machine pistols at pursuers as they fled, police said.

The mosque can be entered from a bazaar and from a police station, but it was not known if any of the victims were police.

Tension was already running high between militant Shi'ite and Sunni organisations following Friday's bus attack.

"A bus carrying Shi'ite Muslims was fired at from a close range by unidentified people riding a Pajero (four-wheel drive vehicle)," a local police official said Saturday.

He said the Shi'ites were returning after dark from a conference in Lahore called by the militant Shi'ite Tehrik-e Jafria Pakistan (TJP) organisation.

Survivors joined by Shi'ites living in the area blocked the Lahore-Islamabad Highway, known as the Grand Trunk Road, all night. It reopened at 8.30 a.m. (0330 GMT), the official said.

No group has claimed responsibility for either attack.

In Rawalpindi, 10 people, including seven policemen, were wounded in a clash between police and members of another militant Shi'ite group, Sipah-i-Mohammad, Friday.

Police were trying to prevent Sipah-i-Mohammad supporters from moving into an area.

War of wits marks Berlusconi's fight to survive

ROME (R) — Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi cast himself as the saviour of Italy as an opinion poll Saturday suggested sympathy was swinging towards him despite a corruption probe.

More than 300 supporters of the billionaire businessman demonstrated against the investigation at the offices of Milan's "clean hands" magistrates Saturday in a protest organised by Mr. Berlusconi's Forza Italia party and other groups.

In a move that could buy valuable time for Mr. Berlusconi to strengthen his hand, the prime minister's lawyer said there was no immediate prospect that he would be questioned in the inquiry.

"The questioning has been put off until a date that has yet to be set," lawyer Giuseppe De Luca told Italian radio.

He said the meeting would take place in Milan but the time and precise place had not been decided.

Mr. Berlusconi, elected in March on promises to end corruption in politics, suffered a hammer blow when

Milan investigators informed him he was under inquiry over bribes his Fininvest business empire is alleged to have paid tax inspectors.

News of the investigation broke Tuesday as the sunbaked tycoon-turned-politician was chairing a U.N. conference in Naples on organised crime and after voter support for Forza Italia slumped in local elections.

Swearing on the lives of his five children that he had done no wrong, Mr. Berlusconi has refused to resign over the affair.

He has instead called a cabinet meeting for Tuesday to try to rally his shaky six-month-old coalition — and primarily the combative Northern League party — around a programme for government over the coming months.

He will also meet trade unions Wednesday for talks which his aides believe should yield a compromise deal on his vital but unpopular cost-cutting 1995 budget and avert an eight-hour general strike set for Dec. 2.

The opposition has said it

"When you're chosen by the people it's like being appointed by the Lord. There's something divine about the citizen who picks a leader," Mr. Berlusconi told a rally of the small centre-right UCD group in his coalition Friday.

"It would be easy to say 'enough is enough, to say 'I've had it,' but then that sense of responsibility prevails. We have the eyes of the world upon us and if I were to leave my post Italy would plunge into a mindless vacuum," he said.

An opinion poll published Saturday suggested that what La Stampa newspaper called Mr. Berlusconi's "smile offensive" was beginning to pay dividends.

The survey by the CIRM institute for Il Messaggero newspaper said 64 per cent of Italians believed the Berlusconi government should stay on as things stand now and that 54 per cent thought it should continue after the budget goes through parliament.

The opposition has said it

wants Mr. Berlusconi to quit when the budget becomes law, a process that must be over by the end of this year.

The survey also showed respondents "split down" the middle on whether the magistrates, whose inquiries toppled Italy's corrupt old governing guard, were using their office in a political plot to get Mr. Berlusconi.

The prime minister, who has tried and failed to rein in the magistrates since coming to power, denied Saturday that he was "at war" with the judiciary but repeated his charge that they were part of a conspiracy.

Referring to Saturday's demonstration at Milan's Palace of Justice and a second protest set for Sunday in the northern city of Turin, he said his mainly middle-class voters were ready to march on the streets to defend him.

"It is a way of showing solidarity for the leader who embodies their expectations, their enthusiasm, their hopes," Mr. Berlusconi told Corriere Della Sera newspaper.

'Yes' vote may not mean 'yes' in Norwegian EU referendum

OSLO (AFP) — Even if the pro-Europe camp pulls off an upset in Norway's referendum on joining the European Union (EU) Sunday, anti-Europe forces have vowed to block ratification in parliament.

Ratification requires a three-quarters majority, which means that opponents need 42 votes to block passage in the 165-seat assembly. The Centre Party and Left Socialists, who together hold 45 of them, have threatened to block ratification.

Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland, the country's strongest champion of EU membership, said of their threat: "I won't believe it until I see it."

"But should it happen, we will find ourselves in a crisis the likes of which has never been seen here before," she warned.

Opinion polls have consistently indicated that a majority of Norwegians will vote against joining the EU. But the "yes" camp has gained ground in recent weeks, and the possibility of a slight "yes" majority has opponents worried.

Worried enough to prompt them to declare that they will block ratification even if a small majority says "yes," in order to "project the large minority," Left Socialist leader and EU opponent Erik Solheim said.

Ms. Brundtland has threatened to dissolve parliament and call new elections if the current parliament votes against ratification.

"I have always been against implementing the power of dissolution. But now I'm more open to the fact there can be good reason to do so," she said.

There is currently no power of dissolution under the Norwegian constitution. To implement that power, Ms. Brundtland would need to call a vote on a proposal granting that power, submitted in 1992.

A two-thirds majority is required to adopt that proposal, and the Centre Party, Left Socialists and Christian Democrats have all said they would reject the proposal, quashing the possibility of dissolution.

Ms. Brundtland's second option would be to call a vote on amending the wording of Article 93 of the Constitution, which gives parliament the authority to cede sovereignty to an international organisation (the EU), to read that it can only do so if a majority of the Norwegian people agree to this in an advisory referendum.

The Centre Party, Left Socialists and Christian Democrats have again said they will vote down the amendment.

But the Christian Democrats, who hold 13 seats in the Storting (parliament), have put themselves in a difficult position: They have promised to unconditionally respect the vote of the people, but they have also threatened to vote down both the proposal and amendment that would enable ratification.

Party leader Kjell Magne Bondevik has said he disagrees with "changing the rules of play in the middle of the game." And realising his party holds the decisive card, he has remained tightlipped on the Christian Democrats' crucial, and contradictory, position.

Labour Party leader Brundtland has maintained that she will continue as prime minister regardless of the outcome of the referendum.

"We have told the people that we will respect their vote, and we will not turn our backs on that promise, she said.

"We will not punish them should they decide to vote against us," she said, citing the example of former PM Trygve Bratteli, who resigned after Norwegians rejected EU membership in a 1972 plebiscite.

Political observers say many Norwegian voters will make their decision between Saturday and Monday, after a last televised party-leads debate Friday night.

In a telephone poll conducted after the debate, viewers declared Ms. Brundtland the winner with 38 per cent, followed by Mr. Solheim who garnered 11 per cent of support.

Should the "yes" side manage an upset victory, Ms. Brundtland can expect a fierce and protracted battle — MPs have received memos telling them they may not take any Christmas holidays.

Calm returns to Rwandan refugee camp

KINSHASA (AFP) — A Rwanda refugee camp in eastern Zaire, where 15 people were killed and 40 injured by Zairean troops Friday, was reported quiet Saturday but heavy firing was heard from an area a few kilometres away.

There was no news of a worker from the British humanitarian organisation Action Aid feared kidnapped during Friday's disturbances.

Aid workers said that the camp at Katala, north of

Goma, which houses 230,000 Rwandan refugees was quiet and that volunteers from aid organisations were returning to other camps in the area after being withdrawn Friday.

In London Action Aid said it was worried about what had happened to its volunteer, a driver, who disappeared with four local employees while driving a truck in an aid convoy heading for a refugee camp.

The organisation said:

"We don't know what happened — he could have been abducted or could have seen a dangerous situation and taken cover. Many of the drivers have been in Bosnia, are ex-army and can look after themselves but obviously we are very concerned for this safety and that of the others with him."

The sound of shooting was heard in the Ritsuru area where soldiers from the defeated army of the former Rwandan government (FAR)

are quartered.

Katala shelters Rwandans who fled a civil war between regular Hutu army troops and the rebel, Tutsi-led Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) from April to July.

Hundreds of thousands of Hutus escaped Rwanda for Zaire following an RPF victory in July and have yet to return to their homes.

The killings at the camp at Katala followed the death of a Zairean soldier.

Angola, UNITA trade truce violation allegations

JOHANNESBURG (R) — The Angolan government and rebel leader Jonas Savimbi's UNITA movement, five days into a fragile ceasefire aimed at ending their 19-year civil war, traded allegations of truce violations Saturday.

The Angolan News Agency (Angop) said the Luanda government accused UNITA guerrillas of shooting down an MV-17 helicopter ferrying wounded soldiers from the southeastern battleground of Cuito-Cuanavale to a hospital in Menongue.

Quoting a military communiqué, the news agency said 22 soldiers died when the helicopter crashed to the ground.

UNITA, the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, denied the allegation in a radio broadcast, saying the helicopter must have crashed.

UNITA radio, monitored

in the island state of Sao Tome and Principe, said government forces had in the last few days bombed Camacupa, Chicapa and Chiguerre — all villages held by UNITA in central Bie province.

The radio said that since UNITA and the MPLA government signed a peace accord in Zambia Sunday government forces attacking Chiguerre had killed about 200 civilians accused of backing UNITA.

UNITA radio also said that in the central province of Huambo government troops were massacring and robbing UNITA sympathisers in the villages of Catongo, Dondo and Chippa.

There was no independent confirmation of either side's reports.

UNITA and the MPLA or Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola signed a protocol in Lusaka, Zambia Sunday promising to end the

war they have waged since independence from Portugal in 1975.

But each side has accused the other of violating a ceasefire which was supposed to begin Tuesday.

Attempts to reconcile the two sides in 1989 and 1991 failed.

UNITA said Saturday it deplored the fact that the United Nations had not recognised that ceasefire violations were continuing and it called on the world body to send observers urgently to control the situation.

"Passive activity by the United Nations gives the MPLA the opportunity to continue killing," the radio said.

The United Nations, which hopes to send 8,000 peacekeepers to Angola, expects the Lusaka peace accord to take up to a year to implement.

A joint commission set up

to oversee the accord will meet in Luanda next Tuesday.

UNITA said Portugal had lost credibility after media reports Friday that the Portuguese government had delivered four helicopters to the Angolan government last year and serviced its Soviet-built warplanes.

"An observer country loses prestige for involving itself in acts that favour one of the parties," the radio said.

The Lisbon-based weekly Independente said the General Office of Aeronautical Equipment (OGMA), an aircraft repair firm owned by the Portuguese Armed Forces, delivered the French-built Alouette III helicopters and a Swiss-built PC-7 trainer to the Angolan government.

The Portuguese government said Friday it was investigating the Independente report.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

الصحف الأردنية المستقلة التي تأسست في عام 1975.

Chairman of the Board of Directors:
MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:
MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephone: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 696183

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Inner city gets help

THE SYMBOLISM of the first ever pedestrian tunnel in Zarqa goes beyond the safety and comfort of the residents of the second largest city in the country. In terms of size and importance, Zarqa is second only to Amman. Yet it tops the list of Jordanian cities that are most neglected and even abused. Home to well over half a million Jordanians, it lacks so many services and developmental planning to the extent that its people had to endure until a couple of days ago the dangers and agonies of crossing its main avenue with considerable risk to their lives or nerves. Credit goes to the municipality of Amman and its dynamic Mayor Mamdouh Abbadi for coming to the rescue of Zarqa and its inhabitants by constructing the badly needed tunnel. The cooperative spirit demonstrated by the capital's municipality in this endeavour shows the way for additional cooperation between the cities and towns of the country. Amman is a richer city than Zarqa and endowed with so many amenities and services that are lacking in Zarqa, a mere twenty kilometres to the north-east. Thus the decision of Dr. Abbadi and his colleagues at the Amman municipality should serve as an example for such cooperation from now on.

It goes without saying that the security and well-being of Amman is directly affected by what goes on around it. Very soon and with phenomenal expansion in construction in the outskirts of the two cities, their suburbs will be connected and their residents living literally under the same roof.

With this prospect in mind, cities neighbouring Amman, such as Zarqa, Russeifah and Salt cannot continue to serve as the home for the less privileged Jordanians and the seat of poverty and deprivation; and that is why the capital would do well to take keen interest in improving their lot, whether through direct assistance or otherwise. Against this backdrop, Mayor Abbadi and his council have done the right thing when they moved to reverse the tide in Zarqa by offering its people some hope when there was little of it left. We can only salute them for taking the initiative on a matter that sooner or later would affect all Jordanians and their way of life.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

JAMAL AL SHAER, a columnist in Al Ra'i urged Jordanians to follow in the footsteps of Arab Israeli leaders and come to the aid of the Palestinians who are currently unable to solve their disputes in Gaza and the other self-rule areas. The writer said that the Palestine National Authority has no real authority despite the fact that its backers, Fatah, constitute the largest faction. Hamas is neither in a position to impose its will on the Palestinian people as it is smaller in size than Fatah and has limited influence, said the writer, adding that none of the people in Jordan would like to see the self-rule areas transformed into another Algeria, with the ruling authority cracking down on the opposition. What is really wanted at this stage, he said, is to see Hamas, Fatah and the other groups together forming a national authority based on the outcome of free and fair elections. Such authority, the writer added, would certainly have the real power to control the streets and bring back stability and security which are needed by the Palestinians to reconstruct the infrastructure of the institutions of the future Palestine state.

ISRAEL'S RECENT decision to create 30,000 housing units in six years around Jerusalem, as part of a settlement programme, clearly indicates the Israeli governments total disregard for the peace process and the peace treaties with the Arab states and the Palestinians, said Mahmoud Rimawi. Holy Jerusalem is part and parcel of the West Bank territory occupied since 1967, and in accordance with U.N. Security Council Resolution 242, Israel ought to withdraw from that part too in exchange for peace with the Arab countries, said the columnist in Al Ra'i daily. The planting of settlements, of course with U.S. financial assistance, is like, planting mines in the path of any permanent and peaceful solution to the Palestine question, said Rimawi. The writer said that while Yitzhak Rabin is being granted a peace award in Europe, his actions on the ground speak of aggression and continued occupation of Arab lands. Indeed Mr. Rabin finds in the awards he gets an encouragement to pursue the same aggressive and oppressive policies Israel has followed since its establishment on Arab soil, added the writer.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Alternative homeland revived

By Dr. Fahed Faneh

ONE OF the main worries Jordanians always harboured was that Jordan, suddenly or gradually, violently or peacefully, may become a replacement homeland for the Palestinians, expelled from their own homeland to make room for Jewish immigrants.

One of the main reasons for which the majority of Jordanians supported the treaty of peace with Israel was to prevent the possibility of transforming Jordan into Palestine, which is obviously as dangerous to Palestine as it is dangerous to Jordan itself.

It is in the best interests of both Jordan and Palestine to avoid mixing the cards. Jordan is Jordan and Palestine is Palestine. Jordan belongs to the Jordanians and Palestine belongs to the Palestinians. The claim that there is no difference between Jordan and Palestine, or, for that matter, between the Jordanians and the Palestinians is an indirect call for the creation of an alternative homeland for the Palestinians in Jordan at the expense of Jordanians. The pan-Arab slogan that disguises such a call is meant to facilitate swallowing the plot and selling the idea that Jordan and Palestine are in effect one country and one people.

The question now is whether or not the peace treaty did in fact bury for ever the scheme of establishing a

Palestinian homeland at the expense of Jordan, as Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali repeatedly asserted. The fact is that the treaty may have eliminated one source of the danger, called the "transfer," i.e. having Israel expel the remaining Palestinians in the West Bank, depriving them of the chance to live in an independent state on their own soil on the pretext that they already have a state in Jordan.

But other sources of danger remain in place and fully operational. They justify more precaution, otherwise Jordanians have only themselves to blame in the future if they find themselves, at one point in time, stripped of their sovereignty and if Palestinians find themselves without political future or sovereignty except in Jordan.

In this respect we have to recall the important speech delivered by U.S. President Bill Clinton at the Jordanian Parliament last month. The president equated Jordan with America as a land for receiving immigrants and naturalising them as full-fledged citizens as a source of strength. He encouraged Jordan to continue functioning as a dumping area for those who flee their homeland or are expelled. He did not say that Americans are essentially a people of immigrants. The original, native Americans, were almost annihilated or suppressed by the newcomers, which makes the equation politically unacceptable to native Jordanians, over and above being impossible economically because of

the vast difference between America and Jordan in resources. America has all the natural resources. It only needs more manpower to create more wealth, while Jordan has no resources to support the present population, not even enough water for the basic population's needs.

Another warning sign came from the World Bank, which issued its report, "Peace and the Jordanian economy," in October. The report devoted a chapter to urban development and housing. It covered the question of refugees and displaced Palestinians in Jordan and went on to draft a financial budget for the upgrading of camps under three options: one with 15 per cent relocation, which will cost \$310 million, another with 10 per cent relocation, which will cost \$199 million, and a third option with no relocation, which will cost no more than \$65 million. The return of displaced Palestinians, according to the World Bank, is not an option that justifies consideration. Likewise, the World Bank all but ignored housing upon drafting a development plan for the West Bank or Gaza.

The conversion of Jordan into an alternative homeland for the Palestinians seems to be in progress. It is only a question of size of the meagre budget needed to improve the quality of life in the refugee camps and transform them into permanent towns.

Withdrawal of Israeli troops, better living conditions are key to peace in self-rule areas

By Pascal B. Karmy

The main, deep causes of the tragic inter-Palestinian fighting, which took place on Nov. 19 between the Palestine National Authority police on the one hand, and the Islamic Jihad and Hamas on the other are two fold. The first is the slow implementation of the Oslo and Cairo accords of Sept. 13, 1993 and May 4, 1994 respectively, and the consequent tardy withdrawal of the Israeli army from the occupied territories; the second cause is due to the non-payment of the funds the donor countries had pledged to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in the wake of the Oslo accord. Only a trickle of those contributions is forthcoming, which is hardly sufficient to meet the day-to-day expenses the administration of the Gaza Strip, let alone the West Bank.

Let us consider somewhat cursorily the two causes and their corollaries. The Israeli army has only partly withdrawn from the Gaza Strip as it is still stationing in parts of it to protect some of the settlements illegally built there, against international law and particularly the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949. In addition, those settlements constitute an obstruction to peace, as they remain the targets of attack by the resistance fighters opposing the accords with Israel, and their existence there reminds the Gaza people of the hated Israeli occupation.

As to the West Bank, the Israeli army is still there in full force as the negotiations for its withdrawal or

redeployment have not yet started. The present repression by the Israeli army of the Palestinians continues to create hatred and resentment against Israel and its army in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

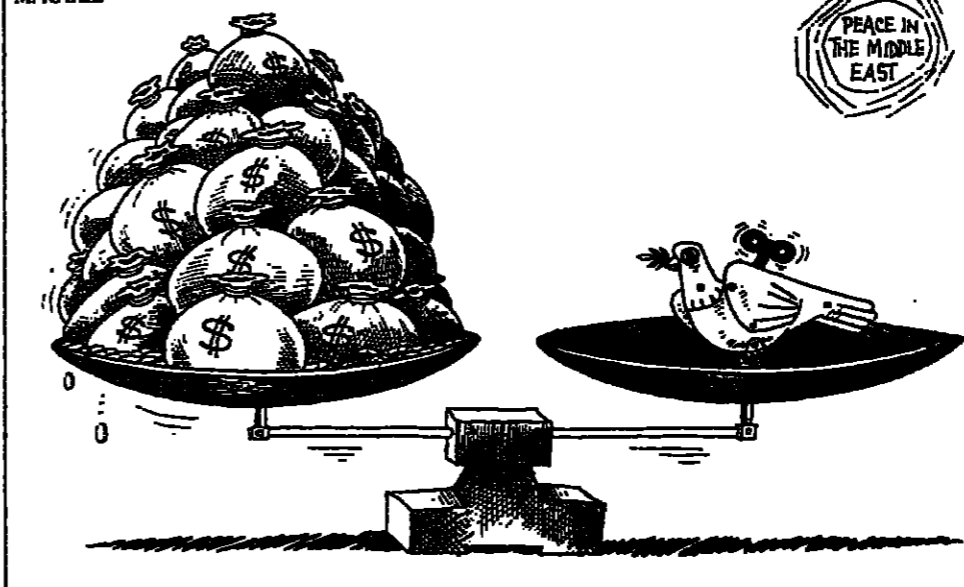
In order to remove the cause of resistance, the accords must be implemented speedily so as to expand the Palestinian autonomy in the occupied territories. But Israel is doing the contrary. Yasser Arafat has recently stated to the Egyptian Al Ahram newspaper correspondent that "the Israelis are still procrastinating as by now they are supposed to have withdrawn from the West Bank, to have redeployed their army and to have delivered empowerment authority to the Palestine National Authority (PNA)".

Not only that, but they are prevaricating at every turn of the negotiations and setting new conditions which the PNA is unable to fulfil "because they are sometimes beyond its control."

Recently, for example, Yitzhak Rabin declared in Washington that Israel will not allow elections for the Palestine Council (provided for in Article 1 of Oslo accord) until the Palestine National Council abrogates the provisions of the Palestine National Charter of 1965 which provide for the elimination of Israel and its replacement by one Palestine state, as it was under the British mandate, including Jews, Muslims and Christians.

It should be remarked however that the condition for the abrogation of these provisions is not stipulated anywhere in the Oslo

M. KAHIL



accord itself, only in the letters exchanged between Mr. Rabin and Mr. Arafat, dated Sept. 9, 1993. Then, no date has been fixed for effecting "the" abrogation and it could be done any time in the future. Moreover, Mr. Arafat is apparently trying, without success so far, to arrange for a meeting of the Palestine National Council. However, the convening of this council is most inappropriate and untimely under the present, tense circumstances prevailing in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

The second important, indirect cause of the inter-Palestinian fighting is the non-payment of sufficient funds by the international donors so as to start work projects and thus improve the economic and living conditions of the people. The closing of the Gaza Strip and preventing Gaza workers from working in

Israel adds more financial hardship and consequent frustration.

The international donors argue that they will "not" release the funds until a proper Palestinian administrative machinery has been established by the PNA, to which the funds can be released and then properly accounted for, especially those which are to be used for big projects. But as I understand, it has been agreed that the funds will be released first to the World Bank and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) as the case may be, both of which have been commissioned to supervise the implementation of the projects, each in its own field or jurisdiction, and to control the expenditure of the funds. Apart from funds to be allocated for big projects, the PNA is naturally in need of day-to-day money required for its

daily administration. Such funds are required by the PNA, for a stronger reason, as it is in the process of building up a new administration and in fact a totally new mini-state.

The PNA is required to create jobs to the numerous skilled and unskilled unemployed labourers to enable them to earn their daily bread and make ends meet for their families. Hungry people without jobs or income will either beg, borrow money, steal or revolt against the established order as they have nothing to lose. It is especially the case in the impoverished Gaza Strip.

We must not lose sight of the fact that Israel's appalling, Nazi-like military occupation has literally destroyed the Gaza Strip and shattered the lives of the inhabitants. It has destroyed its infrastructure and has eliminated the educated cadre of Gaza's previous

administration. Moreover, it has tried to humiliate and even crush the spirit of the population. The military government has even officialised the maltreatment of Palestinian prisoners. It has indeed allowed the use of "mild" force against Palestinian prisoners. One wonders whether the Israeli officers care at all to distinguish between "mild" and "harsh" treatment.

Gaza being handed over by Israel to the PNA in this ghastly state it is no wonder that sufficient funds are needed to start rebuilding almost from scratch and to revive the spirit of the people so that they may enjoy some of the benefits of the Oslo and Cairo accords notwithstanding their weakness.

In a nutshell, the speedy implementation of those accords including the withdrawal of the Israeli army from Palestinian territory and the speedy release of the funds to the PNA to initiate income-generating projects, are vital for securing peace and order in the Palestinian territory.

It is true that Islamic Jihad and Hamas oppose the accords. But the Israeli army should completely withdraw from the occupied territories and remove the settlements which are the cause of friction between the Palestinians and the Israeli army protecting them which hinders the speedy and smooth implementation of the peace process. If all this is done and the Gaza and West Bank people see their political, economic and living conditions improving, then the opponents of the peace process will not find many followers to adopt their ideology.

N. Ireland peace sternest test process faces

By Andrew Hill
Reuters

DUBLIN — One year ago, Irish Prime Minister Albert Reynolds told his Fianna Fail Party faithful a Northern Ireland peace process would start by Christmas.

Twelve months later Mr. Reynolds has been toppled by a political crisis, Fianna Fail is fighting to stay in government and the peace process faces its sternest examination.

"This will be a critical time," said Michael Smyth, lecturer at the University of Ulster in Belfast. "It's difficult to see how the peace euphoria can continue."

Ceasefire in Northern Ireland by the Irish Republican Army, which fought for 25 years to end British rule of the province, and by Protestant loyalist gunmen who battled to maintain it, have ushered in an unprecedented era of peace.

But Irish, Northern Irish and British officials say the honeymoon of peace since the truces in September and October is almost over and a joint Anglo-Irish peace campaign is set to run into turbulence.

They foresee storms ahead when Britain holds exploratory talks with Sinn Fein, the IRA's political wing, for the first time and tries to lure Sinn Fein's political rivals in the Protestant camp to

negotiating table. Britain is likely to tell Sinn Fein there can be no full-scale negotiations until the IRA indicates willingness to surrender some of its stocks of guns, weapons and explosives.

But Sinn Fein has already made clear that it can only discuss such a move if Britain is willing to timetable a departure of 18,000 British troops from the province.

The London government says it cannot so long as there is a threat to security from hundred of tonnes of arms held both by the IRA and its loyalist adversaries.

Irish officials say Mr. Reynolds' demise is unlikely to radically change the determination of the Irish and British governments to find a solution to what has been a stain on the political map of western Europe for the past quarter of a century.

But Mr. Reynolds' departure will cause a subtle shift in emphasis since there are few on the Irish political landscape as determined as he was to bring Sinn Fein in from the cold.

"There's no-one around at the moment like Albert (Reynolds)," said a Dublin commentator who requested anonymity. "Whoever the next taoiseach (prime minister) is, he will be much harder on Sinn Fein."

Irish officials say Mr. Reynolds' departure will

much tougher with Sinn Fein in a move that is likely to test the embryonic peace process and hardline IRA gunmen, who reluctantly agreed to give peace a chance.

While Mr. Reynolds and British Prime Minister John Major were jointly responsible for the peace process, they tried hard to be seen to be acting in concert even if Mr. Reynolds was moving ahead much faster, Irish officials said.

But with Mr. Reynolds gone, Mr. Major may try to capitalise on Dublin's political crisis to seize the initiative and slow the whole process down to what London feels is a more seemly and realistic pace, the officials said.

The irony of Mr. Reynolds' resignation is that it was forced as Irish and British officials were planning to mark the first anniversary of the Dec. 15 Downing Street declaration which launched the peace initiative.

There was talk of a Reynolds-Major summit on the anniversary to unveil the second phase of their plans to drop rival constitutional claims to the province to encourage Protestant and Catholic to live and work together in peace, but that summit is unlikely to be held now, while the Dublin political establishment searches for a new prime minister and London gets involved in

Mr. Reynolds recognised Sinn Fein one week after the IRA ceasefire but Britain's only concessions to the party have been to drop a broadcasting ban on its spokesmen and an exclusion order on its president, Gerry Adams, from mainland Britain.

The Downing Street declaration did little to hasten the reunification of Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic from which it was partitioned seven decades ago, the central aim of Sinn Fein and the IRA.

Instead it said there could be no change to the province's status until a majority in the province wanted it. Mr. Adams gambled that that might be sooner rather than later if peace was the background to political negotiations.

But Britain has shown no public willingness to persuade its Protestant majority in the province, which wants to stay British, that their future lies in a united Ireland, as Sinn Fein wants.

This has left Sinn Fein, which commands a small 10 per cent of votes in Northern Ireland, in the position of a minority party with the guns of the IRA silenced.

"Sinn Fein has got nothing to show from all this peace process talk," said the University of Ulster's Smyth. "Unless it can get something from Britain it is difficult to see how Gerry Adams can

LETTERS

Need for change

To the Editor:

I am writing to praise you for your timely article, "Sexual harassment of women in public — time to speak out," (Jordan Times, Nov. 22, 1994).

The demeaning treatment women receive in public has been regarded as the fate of women living in this society — something a woman has to live with, to tolerate, but not to change. Whenever a woman complains, she is told that the man is not to blame because he is living in a sexually repressed society. Well, women also live in this society and yet they manage to control themselves! This control sexual frustration, but not from conditioning at home. Sublimation into a woman from birth in order for her to reach other hand, are under no such pressure. The result is a society of women ogled at and verbally and physically harassed by a growing number of men.

What a woman needs is a viable system to which she can and should resort. Even though we have law No. 320, we have no police force — maybe a special elite unit sympathetically to harass complaints made by women. The incident in which the female journalist was grabbed by a policeman as she was interviewing his colleague is truly regrettable. Women should speak out and force our government to recognise this problem as an important domestic issue.

Nadine Shubailat,
P.O. Box 5180,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unsolicited manuscripts.

Role of Jordanian media in limelight at 'Scientific Week'

By Rana Hussein and Cathy King
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — On the first day of a week of presentations at the University of Jordan under the title "Scientific Week," the adaptation of the media in line with democratic rights was underlined in the initial session on Saturday.

Government domination of the ownership of local press is an obstacle to its freedom and creates frustration because of the unseen pressure that it evokes, said Ad Dustour editor-in-chief Nabil Sharif.

"The government owns 75 per cent of Sawt Al Shaab, 60 per cent of Al Ra'i and 40 per cent of Ad Dustour. This is a high percentage although it is described as an investment operation," said Dr. Sharif.

According to the Press and Publication Law passed in 1993, the government should own less than 30 per cent of any newspaper shares.

Other negative factors obstructing the path of Jordanian media include psychological and social pressures and the lack of information available to local journalists.

Dr. Sharif explained that psychologically, reporters feel that government opinion is the right and sole opinion; that there is a need to distinguish between the individual and his social background and that information is more readily available to foreign media services than local ones.

Reinforcing the last factor, Dr. Sharif said, "during the peace treaty we had to translate certain events from Israeli newspapers because government officials would not provide us with the information and we were heavily criticised by people."

"We hope that officials will change their view about local journalists and trust them more," said Dr. Sharif.

The press is a tool for changing and advancing the society, he said, and it is the watchdog for people and acts as the fourth authority.

"But we are living in a transitional period, leaving behind former martial rule and moving toward democracy."

The second speaker of the morning session Brigadier General Qasem Saleh reaffirmed that media people had a role in the society to create awareness for the new generations.

"I challenge the Jordanian press to become more creative and to reflect the reality and the future in an optimistic way," he added.

The afternoon lecture considered the lack of women's participation in society in general and more specifically

in politics. Factors attributed to this phenomenon included upbringing, illiteracy, tribal habits and the stereotypical view of women.

Attorney Asma Khader, a women's rights activist, blamed the minimum role of women in society on upbringing.

"Here the common stereotype is that women should stay away from politics and that their only role is in the home," she said.

According to Ms. Khader, women's participation does not exceed 0.5 per cent in the public sector, and 1 per cent in higher authority and barely reaches 17 per cent participation in political parties.

Senator Husni Ayesh, the second speaker, said that illiteracy in women curtails her ambitions and affects the upbringing of her children.

"The number of uneducated women in Jordan is double the number of men," and this also inhibits political participation at all levels, Senator Ayesh said.

He blamed internal conflicts within women's organisations for weakening their stand in political circles and added that "women should not seek equal opportunities with men, but should look for equal representation along-side men."

Deputy Toujan Faisal said that women need to know the importance of their involvement in politics.

"The problem is that most women don't know that politics affects other aspects of their lives — what they eat, prices and all areas of life," she said.

Ms. Faisal added that certain tribal traditions dictate appointment of men in preference to women.

Ms. Faisal said that the stereotyped position of women in the home discourages women from running for parliament.

"People are used to seeing men in Parliament and cannot imagine women there as well... this affects the balance of our society and that is why it is backward," she said.

Today's presentations will cover one on democracy and political parties, presented by Senator and former Prime Minister Ahmad Obaidat. Lower House of Parliament Speaker Sa'd Hayel Srour will lecture on democracy in Jordan.

The evening session on press and democracy will be addressed by columnist Tareq Masarweh and President of the Institute of Diplomacy Mazen Armouti.

German prosecutor slams Austria for freeing Syrian

BERLIN (AFP) — A leading Berlin judicial official has criticised Austria for releasing an arrested Syrian former ambassador implicated in a deadly bombing in West Berlin linked to "Carlos the jackal."

The decision to release Faisal Summak — who was Syrian ambassador to East Germany from 1981 to 1989 — on the grounds he was covered by diplomatic immunity was "deeply disappointing," Berlin public prosecutor Dieter Neumann said in an interview with the German weekly Der Spiegel due to appear Monday.

Mr. Summak is suspected of involvement in the preparation of a bomb attack on the French cultural centre in West Berlin in August 1983 in which one person died and 23 were wounded. Carlos' group claimed responsibility. Germany issued an international arrest warrant for Mr. Summak last summer and requested his extradition from Austria following his arrest in Vienna on October 25 this year.

A Vienna court ruled on Thursday that Mr. Summak was covered by diplomatic immunity and free to leave. Mr. Neumann in the Der Spiegel interview denied that Mr. Summak had accredited diplomatic immunity at the time of his arrest. He said his information was that the diplomat had entered Austria on a tourist visa.

Mr. Summak reportedly claimed immunity on the grounds he was in Austria at the invitation of the United Nations Organisation for Industrial Development which

has its headquarters in Vienna.

Der Spiegel reported that the German foreign ministry viewed Mr. Summak's freeing as a setback. His arrest in October had been seen as a signal to the Syrians that they could no longer do what they wished in East Europe, it was said.

Now the impression had been given that "the Syrians can do what they want," the magazine said.

The former ambassador is suspected of ordering the third secretary at the Syrian embassy in former East Berlin to hand over 25 kilograms of explosives to Carlos — now held in France — and a wanted German, Johannes Weinrich.

Another Syrian ex-diplomat, Mohammad Nabil Chritah, told German police after his arrest in Germany last January that Weinrich, allegedly Carlos' right-hand man, stored explosives at the embassy and removed some of the material on the day of the attack.

Carlos, whose real name is Illich Ramirez Sanchez, was brought to France bound and gagged on Aug. 15 after being handed over to French secret service agents in the Sudanese capital Khartoum.

A spokesman for the Austrian justice ministry said on Thursday that Syria had appealed to Austria to release Mr. Summak or prevent his extradition to Germany.

Der Spiegel reported last week that if Mr. Summak were extradited, Germany hoped to use him as a bargaining chip for the handing over of Weinrich, who had taken refuge in Syria.

The mysteries of the 'valley of marvels'

By Emmanuel Thievenon

What do the thousands of primitive drawings decorating the "Valée des merveilles" (Valley of marvels) mean and who were the artists? After a century of investigations, the interpretations, from the wildest to those backed by the most arguments, followed one another to try to elucidate the mystery surrounding this great site of European prehistory.

A few kilometres from Nice, above the little town of Saint-Dalmas-de-Tende, a visitor discovering the "Valée des merveilles" is seized with wonder at its grandiose austerity. In the limpid waters of a series of lakes, the jagged mountain peaks and the impressive jumble of great blocks of stone are reflected.

There are frequent storms in summer, particularly on the highest peak of the site, Mount Bego (2,873 metres) with its sides rich in iron ore. In this "great site in which the spirit breathes," prehistoric men drew thousands of primitive drawings (nearly 100,000 have been listed) on slabs of schist, made completely smooth by the titanic work of glaciers.

Each of the modest-looking pictures is made up of a series of dots engraved with a metal point. Very sketchily, they represent simple geometric figures (circles, squares, ovals and triangles) and, above all, objects or animals characteristic of farming activities (tools, spearheads and ploughs, oxen, bulls' heads, enclosures, etc.).

Some of the slabs are covered in daggers and halberds which must have been intended to symbolise primitive scythes or weapons. By comparing them with real objects discovered in excavations, it has been possible to date the main phase of activity of the site at around 1,800 B.C., in the Bronze Age.

Animals are often simply represented by their horns but there are also some examples showing, in a few strokes, harnessed animals led by human figures. Anthropomorphic drawings are scarce but of essential importance to try to explain the purpose of the site. The figure of the "witch-doctor" is depicted by a triangular face with arms brandishing two daggers. The "chief of the tribe" is shown in full length with a big dagger planted at an angle in his skull and wearing a tunic

revealing his sex.

The wildest theories followed one another in an attempt to understand this profusion of signs in such a remote place and to find out which people did the drawings. Certain local traditions attribute these drawings as being ex votoes by shepherds, dedicated to the monks who freed the place from the evils of the demon or of a witch. A scholar from the Romantic period even considered them as Phoenician inscriptions and thought that the schist slabs were the ruins of a monument to the glory of Hannibal.

Today, specialists consider that the area of 10 square kilometres around Mount Bego must have been an important place of pilgrimage (the root "beg" means "God" in Indo-European) where, in the right season, the peasants came to implore their gods. However, interpretations as to the nature of these gods vary. Most researchers think that, like other neolithic peoples in the Mediterranean basin, these people worshipped the bull-god, master of thunderbolts and of fertility. The thousands of prayers engraved on the rocks would seem to be addressed to this western Zeus calling down his goodness upon the houses and the fields (geometrical figures), the flocks and herds (horned figures), the labours of the soil and the harvests (scenes of ploughing, scythes, etc.).

Emilia Masson, of the Institute of Semitic Studies at the Collège de France, thinks that this society was organised following the social and sacred hierarchy brought out by Georges Dumézil in all Indo-European societies. Through its geometry, the mountain would represent the fundamental triad with, at the summit, the supreme god, master of the natural elements; below him the god of war, and, lower still, the gods linked to the production of goods.

A comparable division of human society corresponds to this repartition with, at the top, the class of priests (the anthropomorphic figures are located not far from the summit), then the warriors (represented by the weapons) and finally the peasants, the craftsmen and the merchants, occupying the lowest levels (geometrical figures and horns).

For the time being, none of the numerous theories drawn



The valley of marvels and its mysterious inscriptions

up is unanimously accepted by anthropologists. One thing is sure, however. If this listed site has survived the

elements for several millennia, it has, unfortunately suffered too much damage caused, voluntarily or not, by

tourists. Some people do not hesitate to cover them with paint before photographing them. And what of those add

their own graffiti onto the schist slabs?

L'actualite en France

Budget focuses on development

(Continued from page 1)

the grants and the financial assistance promised to Jordan by friendly countries.

In reply to a question on the effects of the government's decision to lower customs tariffs, the minister said that the government hopes that the reduction would have its beneficial results.

The government has no intention of imposing customs duty on foodstuffs which he said are totally exempted from duty, he said.

The minister said the government in 1993 rescheduled \$865 million in foreign com-

mercial loans due to 100 commercial banks. These will be paid over 30 years according to the rescheduling agreement, he said.

For foreign debt payments due in 1994, 1995 and 1996 Jordan succeeded in reaching agreement with the Paris Club on rescheduling \$1,212 million over 20 years, he said.

The Kingdom has succeeded in rescheduling \$2,200 million of its debts to foreign banks and governments and in writing off \$800 million.

He said that the government was endeavouring to obtain new grants and soft

loans to finance development projects.

Brushing aside a question about possible pay increases to civil servants, Mr. Gam-moh said that the government was giving attention to creating jobs to the unemployed. This is a national requirement which calls for investments to be made on the part of the private and public sectors to create new jobs, he said.

The minister noted that the government had allocated JD 800 million in the new budget to initiate development projects which he said would mainly benefit the poor.

Denying reports that the government plans to raise the price of fuel, the minister called for all efforts to economise on consumption.

The government normally conducts a thorough study before raising the prices of fuel and at the moment, he said, there is also no intention to raise the licensing fees on cars, he said.

Hamas stages huge but peaceful rally

(Continued from page 1)

against Mr. Arafat. During a cabinet meeting earlier in the day, Mr. Arafat accused Iran of funding Hamas and Islamic Jihad with \$30 million over the past year, Palestinian sources said. He also said many of their operations were coordinated in meetings in the United States.

Organisers at the start of rally said the Islamic opposition was saving their bullets for Israeli targets and would not fire in the air. The orderly nature of the event underscored the organising skills of the Islamic groups.

The rally was the Islamic response to a public gathering of over 10,000 Arafat supporters earlier in the week. During that event Mr. Arafat allowed armed members of the Fateh Hawks, his loyalists who fought the Israeli occupation, to fire their arms into the air. That was seen as a direct threat to the Islamic opposition.

Speakers said the peace process was a failure. Prayer leader Sheikh Ahmad Nimr said the "hyenas" who promised to improve living standards in the Gaza Strip had done nothing.

"Our people are shaking with anger. We do not want skyscrapers. They are not alternatives for Hamama, Jaffa and the land of the Galilee," he said, referring to areas now inside Israel that were ancestral homes for most of Gaza's 800,000 population.

The official reason for Saturday's opposition rally was to mark the first anniversary of the death of 23-year-old Imad Akel, founder of Izzedine Al Qas-sam. He was killed in an Israeli army ambush. He was accused of the killings of 11 Israeli soldiers, an Israeli civilian and four suspected Palestinian informers.

The event had been planned for Friday, but Hamas

said it was delayed because of heavy rainstorms.

Many supporters carried black banners in Akel's memory.

Many of the thousands were bussed in from all parts of the Gaza Strip and organisers drove around Gaza City calling on people to attend.

Majali to visit UAE soon

(Continued from page 1)

family, saying issues pertaining to Arab relations should not be put on hold.

Mr. Kabarti said the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty was one of the most important events in the history of Jordan, noting that the committee's meeting with the prime minister aimed at briefing the committee members on developments in this regard.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Egypt deports two foreigners with AIDS

CAIRO (R) — Egypt on Saturday deported an Ethiopian and a citizen of Malawi who were found to have AIDS, security sources said. They said the two men came to Cairo in October to take part in a training session run by the Ministry of Scientific Research. When they underwent a routine medical checkup they were found to have the acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). Egypt has so far deported 227 infected foreigners. The Egyptian government has launched a health awareness campaign to educate a largely illiterate population on the dangers of AIDS, for which there is no cure. About 178 Egyptians are reported to have died from AIDS.

Thais recover more jewelry

BANGKOK (AFP) — Thirty more pieces of jewelry that may be part of a haul of missing Saudi gems have been recovered from a beer carton left on a highway in northern Thailand, news reports said Saturday. The 11 kilograms of items, which also included around 100 pieces of silver cutlery, were recovered Friday in Koh Ka district of Lampang province, 600 kilometres north of Bangkok, the reports said. Police scouring northern Thailand for the missing valuables went to the spot after receiving an anonymous telephone call Thursday night. A note found in the carton read: "These valuable objects belong to the Saudi monarch. Please return to them on our behalf." Experts later determined that some of the items were genuine, but it was not immediately known if they were part of the millions of dollars of missing Saudi jewelry, the reports said.

Kuwait fund to finance Philippine projects

MANILA (AFP) — The Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development has declared its willingness to finance Philippine projects in agriculture, industry and infrastructure, official documents obtained Saturday showed. A report from the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) said the Kuwait fund also dispelled the popular belief that they only assisted Islamic-oriented projects and countries. The Philippines is largely Roman Catholic but has hundreds of thousands of people working as contract workers in Kuwait and other Middle East countries.

Afghan immunisation reaches 100,000

KABUL (AP) — More than 100,000 women and children were vaccinated in a one-week immunisation campaign, the first such programme in this war-torn city in more than three years, officials said Saturday. The United Nations sought a ceasefire from Nov. 19-26 so mothers and their young kids could visit hospitals and health clinics without the fear of rocket attacks. The feuding factions ignored the plea and continued to exchange rocket and mortar fire, but the immunisation plan went ahead as planned and Afghan Ministry of Public Health declared it a success. Dr. Shukur, head of the ministry, said vaccinations were given for measles, polio and tetanus. Measles is one of the leading killers of Afghan children under age 5 and there had not been a vaccination programme in Kabul since 1991. There was a fresh round of rocket duels Saturday morning between the government forces and the opposition troops, but there was no immediate word on casualties. Nine separate factions have been battling for control of Kabul.

Bhutto demands reward

(Continued on page 12)

refusal by the United States to release aid.

Nor has Washington rewarded Islamabad for helping to oppose the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan, for its role in world-wide peacekeeping or its moderation in the dispute with India over Kashmir, she said.

According to Ms. Bhutto, the Pressler amendment preventing export of the F-16s is discriminatory and should be repealed. She insisted that the West should stop insisting that Pakistan take unilateral steps and should adopt an even-handed approach to her

country and India.

"We agreed to send a contingent to Haiti under the U.S. flag. But one must ask (whether) the Pressler amendment helped to achieve the aim of nuclear non-proliferation in the region?"

"I think there's consensus between the U.S. government, Pakistan, and independent thinkers that, by invoking Pressler, the U.S. has not succeeded in promoting non-proliferation. It became a veto in Indian hands."

"Pakistan and India have fought three wars together. Pakistan is vulnerable. It must keep up with India."

Inconsistent Bills need winning streak to make playoffs

The Associated Press

THEY LOSE, they win, they lose. That's been the most consistent thing about the Jerrill-and-Hyde Buffalo Bills this season.

The resemble champions one week and chumps the next.

At 6-6 after Thursday's loss to Detroit, the four-time AFC champions need four games of winning consistency in they hope to make the National Football League playoffs.

"Six losses, we haven't had a six-loss season since I got here, and this is my fifth season," said defensive end Phil Hansen. "All we can do now is win these last four games, and hope some other teams lose, and that's not how the Buffalo Bills like to do things."

Playing .500 ball and possibly missing the postseason is incomprehensible to most of the Bills, who have never known anything but winning seasons.

"It's really difficult, especially for those of us that have been around for a while," said centre Kent Hull. "We're more used to 10-2 or 9-3. I just hope the young guys don't get used to this."

Winning the last four games should put the Bills into the playoffs at 10-6, though capturing another AFC East title is unlikely.

"There's not much room left for error," said quarterback Jim Kelly, who exhorting his teammates before their 35-21 loss to Detroit that the playoffs had already begun.

Even if they land a wild-card spot, the Bills would probably face a tough playoff round that would be mostly or entirely road games.

They've done it before, rallying from a 35-3 deficit to

beat Houston in that wildest of wild-card games two years ago, then going on the road to defeat Pittsburgh and Miami.

But that was a younger, less-battered, hungrier team that hadn't begun to unravel through free agency. Mostly, it was a more consistent team, one that wouldn't manhandle Kansas City and Miami one week then choke against teams like Chicago and Indianapolis.

Jets, Dolphins to play for AFC East

No team has tantalised its fans over the past two decades more than the New York Jets, who win a few big games only to lose a lot of small ones.

This Sunday, if they beat Miami, they move into a tie for first in the AFC East with four games to go in the National Football League season. Miami is 7-4 to the Jets' 6-5 but the Dolphins' offense has withered in recent weeks.

There were two Thanksgiving Day games, with Detroit beating Buffalo 35-21, and Dallas downing Green Bay 42-31.

In other games Sunday, Houston is at Cleveland; Philadelphia at Atlanta; Tampa Bay at Minnesota; Chicago at Arizona; Cincinnati at Denver; Kansas City at Seattle; the Los Angeles Rams at San Diego; the New York Giants at Washington; Pittsburgh at the Los Angeles Raiders; and New England at Indianapolis.

San Francisco visits New Orleans Monday night.

Cowboys' Garrett lives out 'fairy tale'

Jason Garrett's National Football League "fairy tale" should come to an end on



The 49ers' Jerry Rice (right) had Steve Israel of the Rams beat as he eyed a Steve Young pass (AFP photo)

Monday. The third-string quarterback who led the Dallas Cowboys to a 42-31 victory over the Green Bay Packers

Thursday expects to be back on the scout team running plays.

"If Rodney (Peete) is healthy then Rodney is the starter

next week against Philadelphia," said the red-haired Garrett, also known as Rudy. "He's a great player. I have no problem with it."

NBA's new rules get mixed reviews

WASHINGTON (AFP) —

The new rules adopted by the National Basketball Association, including the closer three-point line, are drawing mixed reviews from players.

The league's stand-out shooter said "They preferred the old three-point line, which was more of a test. But shooters with a more limited range are delighted."

"I wish they hadn't moved it in," said Danny Ainge of Phoenix, one of the best three-point shooters in the league. "It was such a big factor, because not every-

body could do it."

However, Ainge said the closer three-point line might not result in a sudden upsurge in three-point shots.

"You might not get as many threes as you'd think, because the defense doesn't have to rotate as far, so it gets there faster," Ainge said.

"You also might see a lot of players forcing threes they shouldn't be taking. It will be an adjustment. All of the changes will be."

The rule that seems to be causing the most frustration is the ban on hand-checking.

Under the new rule, a player can't be touched unless he is inside the foul line. Then, he can only be touched with one hand, and only if he is posting up.

"Offensively, it's great," said Chicago's Scottie Pippen. "Defensively it's going to take some getting used to. It favors finesse players and strong players."

In addition, new illegal defense guidelines limit what

defenders can do.

If a defender leaves his man and goes below the free throw line, he must go directly to the ball or it is an illegal defense.

In the past, a defender could drop off his man to stop another man from penetrating the foul area, then go back to his man.

"You just have to figure out what you can get away with," Ainge said.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSH

© Tammam Hirsh, Inc.

SAFE, NOT SORRY

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
 ♠ QJ65
 ♥ KJ2
 ♦ K93
 ♣ 863

WEST
 ♠ 10
 ♥ 84
 ♦ J10864
 ♣ AK852

EAST
 ♠ 842
 ♥ Q10986
 ♦ Void
 ♣ J10974

SOUTH
 ♠ AK978
 ♥ A75
 ♦ AQ762
 ♣ Void

The bidding:
 South West North East
 1♣ Pass 3♦ Pass
 6♦ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠
 Don't let the fact that you might not have reached the optimum contract upset you. Concentrate on the task at hand—making sure to make what you bid.

After North's limit raise, there might be some scientific auction that would reveal whether all the necessary ingredients are there in responder's hand to contract for a grand slam. We, however, feel that South's leap to a small slam was an eminently satisfactory way to bid a difficult hand.

West led the king of clubs and, thanks to little duplication of values in that suit, it looked as if all 13 tricks would be a cakewalk. Visibly disconcerted at not having contracted

for a grand slam, declarer ruffed the opening lead, drew three rounds of trumps ending in dummy and led a diamond toward the ace. When East showed out, the contract could no longer be made. Try it.

Declarer's line would have been fine had the contract been a grand slam. Since South needed only 12 tricks to get home, four diamond tricks would suffice if trumps were no worse than 3-1 and there was a safety play available to guard against West's holding all the diamonds.

After ruffing the club opening lead, declarer should draw trumps ending in hand and lead a diamond, intending to finesse the nine if West follows low. Therefore, West must insert an honor and declarer ducks.

If East follows suit, the diamond suit will produce four tricks by force, turning two diamonds from the table. But when East shows out, South's foresight pays a huge dividend. West's best shift is to a heart, covered by the jack, queen and ace. Declarer now takes the proven fineness of the nine of diamonds, unblocks the king and returns to hand with a club ruff to discard dummy's remaining losers on the ace-queen of diamonds.

FOR RENT

Deluxe, furnished apartment, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, sitting, living & dining rooms, central heating, two balconies, lift, well & telephone. In Amman, Um El Summaq. Facing Mecca Str. Annual rent: JD 8,000.

Contact Tel.: 815788, fax 692069

AMMAN BACCALAUREATE SCHOOL Computer Lab Technician

We are seeking the services of an energetic, qualified and experienced technician to be responsible for the complete operation and maintenance of our Senior School computer system. In addition, this person should be able to offer advice and assistance to school staff and students on the use of our computer facilities and software. Essential to this position should be a willingness to accept new challenges and to deal with many different people.

QUALIFICATIONS

1. Fluent in both English and Arabic languages.
2. Capable of maintaining computer hardware.
3. Familiar with the operation and maintenance of scanners.
4. Fully aware of windows based software applications (Excel, Word etc.).

EXPERIENCE

1. Windows 3.11 applications.
2. DOS 6.x applications.
3. Novell Networking.

Application forms may be obtained from the school's reception desk, phone 845572, 847191-23 and should be submitted by Thursday 1 December 1994 together with a personal photo.

An International Construction Company has the following vacancy for their office in Amman.

Accountant/Controller.

This is a senior position and candidates should meet the following criteria.

- Degree in Accounting.
- Able to operate and set up computer based systems.
- Minimum 5 years real experience, preferably with an international company.
- Familiar with multi-currency transactions.
- Familiar with procurement procedures.
- A self-starter able to work un-supervised.
- Excellent command of spoken and written English.
- Reliability and Dedication.
- An attractive remuneration package will be offered.
- Applications with a typed CV copy of qualifications and recent photograph should be mailed to:

The Personnel Manager

P.O.Box 910021 Amman 11191, Jordan

SEEKING EMPLOYMENT

Ex. general manager for 6 years in Oman/UAE. 15 years Gulf Experience, age 37. Int'l sales & marketing, excellent track record in all aspects of import/export and agencies. Previous experience includes administration & personnel management, int'l real estate development, food business, int'l franchise for American fast food restaurants, European & local furniture, carpets, fabrics, kitchen cabinets, S/Ware, and garments, etc.

- ★ Can secure vital buy back projects.
- ★ Omani Res. visa, valid indefinitely Oman/UAE
- ★ Omani & Jordanian driving licence.
- ★ Fluent, Arabic & English
- ★ Seeks suitable challenging position

Please contact Mr. S. Amin
 P.O. Box 499 Muscat 113 Sultanate of Oman
 Fax: (968) 739057 Muscat
 Shortly in Amman for personal interviews.
 Available immediately

Spurs win FA Cup reprieve

LONDON (AFP) — Tottenham won back their place in the FA Cup Friday when the decision to expel them over alleged irregular payments was ruled illegal.

A Football Association tribunal found in the club's favour after chairman Alan Sugar argued that both the original FA commission and Appeals Board had acted outside their powers.

The news that Sugar had triumphed after a two-day hearing came in a statement from FA headquarters. The club will have to face a new inquiry, although it is unclear what form of punishment is now open to the FA.

Sugar will now request the return of the FA's 1.5 million-pound fine and also demand that his club's six-point deduction be struck from the record.

The draw for the third round of the FA Cup is scheduled to take place on Saturday, December 3 and Tottenham will expect to be included — a massive boost for new boss Gerry Francis and his players.

Tottenham were found guilty of financial irregularities at an FA disciplinary hearing in June and were fined 600,000-pounds, had 12 points deducted from this season's eventual total and were excluded from the Cup.

The club appealed and the points loss was halved, but the fine was more than doubled and the Cup ban stood.

Tottenham manager Gerry Francis said after the decision was announced: "It looks like the club have had some sort of victory, and that's good news — but it is still up in the air."

"As it stands, we are back in the FA Cup, and in the draw for the third round, but that could change. If I had a preference I would like to see the six points given back to us. But we will have to wait and see what happens."

Club captain Gary Mabbutt, who led Tottenham in their record eighth Cup victory in 1991, said: "We can't count our chickens yet, but this will be a big boost for our fans. I think the fact that we weren't in the competition devalued it."

The new inquiry Spurs face will take place three days after the 3rd round draw.

And there is more than a possibility the fresh commission could uphold the original verdict, leaving Sugar to consider whether or not to go to the High Court.

It is understood the draw will include "Tottenham or bye," leaving room for expulsion to be confirmed.

FIA to introduce new F1 rules

GENEVA (R) — New rules could be introduced in Formula One racing next season to prevent the drivers' championship being decided by a crash in the final race, FIA chief Max Mosley said Friday.

Reacting to the controversial victory of Michael Schumacher, who clinched the title after colliding with Damon Hill in Adelaide two weeks ago, he said the International Automobile Federation would discuss the new rules next month.

These could allow drivers to continue the race in their reserve cars or even create special run-offs between contenders if they forced each other off the track.

"It's something we're looking at. There's something very unsatisfactory about what happened in Adelaide," Mosley told a chamber of commerce lunch in Geneva.

"Never mind who was to blame, it's an irritating way to see the thing decided," he added.

The FIA confirmed Schumacher's title Wednesday after an inquiry into the Australian Grand Prix November 13, when Schumacher's Benetton cut across the path of Hill's Williams and forced the Briton out of the race. The German had begun the

race with a one-point lead.

Neither Hill nor his team protested, but some British newspapers had speculated that Schumacher might be stripped of the championship.

In a simple case like that you certainly could, for example, allow both drivers to start in the pit lane during the race and whichever one finishes in front of the other has won or you could have a 10-lap run-off after the race," Mosley said.

But he said the situation would get more complicated if other drivers were involved in the crashes or if leading drivers were forced out in earlier races.

Mosley said the rule changes would be discussed at the Formula One Commission in December and also perhaps at the World Motor Sport Council, but it was still too early to predict what would happen.

He said the question had not just been brought up because of the Adelaide crash,

but because of similar end-of-season incidents between four-time champion Alain Prost and the late Ayrton Senna of Brazil.

"We've had three now, twice with Senna and Prost and now with Hill and Schumacher, so you start to say 'well hell, maybe we can do something,'" Mosley said.

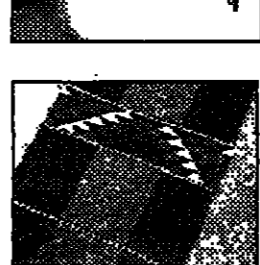
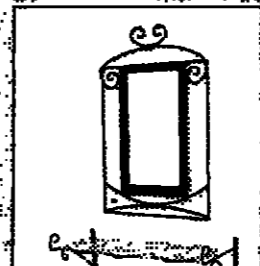
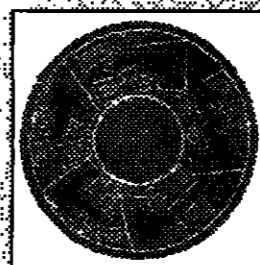
"Because it is annoying and there is also the question 'did he do it on purpose?' and even if he didn't there is a feeling he might have, which is bad for the driver."

"I'm sure Schumacher wouldn't like that. I'm sure he'd have much rather beaten Hill fair and square in the race."

Mosley said the FIA had no evidence that Schumacher had deliberately forced Hill from the race.

"In the end, the right man won the championship. Schumacher is the quicker driver. So it's a just result. Maybe the route is a bit devious, but we got the right result."

Jordan Times Tel: 667171



LIWAN
 A Taste of Tradition

Your assurance of authenticity and the highest quality in Jordanian craftsmanship

LIWAN
 THE JORDAN DESIGN AND TRADE CENTRE

Noor Al-Hussein Foundation
 Off the Wadi Sagra Road
 Between Safeway & King Abdullah Gardens
 Open Sat. - Thurs., 9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. Tel. 699141 / 699142

Cinema	Tel.: 634144	Cinema	Tel.: 699238	Cinema	Tel.: 677420	Cinema	Tel.: 618274 - 618275	Cinema	Tel.: 675571	Cinema	Tel.: 625155
PHILADELPHIA		PLAZA		CONCORD		AMMOUN THEATRE		Nabil Al Mashini Theatre		AHLAN THEATRE	
The film which won seven Oscars		Najiaa Fathi & Mahmoud Hamideh in: Disco...Disco		CONCORD "1" Tom Hanks in Sleepless in Seattle		Presents "Water is a Gift of Life" A family and children play produced and directed by: Akram Abul Ragheb Daily at 10 a.m. The Arabic Movie The Immigrant		Thursday...Thursday 1.12.1994 You have a date with Abu Awad at the opening of the new performance of the comedy: A Punctured Bag (Qirbeh Makhzouqa)		Presents: The political satire: Al Salam Ya Salam Daily at 8:30	
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:45		Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30		Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30		Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30		Ticket window is open all day		Saturday & Sunday is the theatre's holiday. In English next Saturday and Sunday	

Iraq schools update teaching on Kuwait

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraqi schools are teaching their pupils that Kuwait is a sovereign state and maps showing the new U.N.-defined border will be added to textbooks as soon as they are available, Education Minister Hikmat Al Bazzaz said on Saturday.

"With regard to (U.N.) Security Council resolutions and the recognition of Kuwait there are no problems as far as the education ministry is concerned," Mr. Bazzaz told Reuters.

He said geography and history texts now in use by Iraq's five million school children were published before the 1990-91 Gulf crisis. Copies shown to Reuters listed Kuwait as an independent state.

Kuwait's Education Minister Ahmad Abdullah Al Rabai complained on Tuesday that Iraqi schools had not gone far enough in erasing the territorial claim behind the 1990 invasion of the emirate.

He said Iraqi textbooks still showed the old border and history books referred to the Gulf war as "the mother of battles" — a tag coined during the seven months that Iraq occupied Kuwait, claimed it as its 19th province and defied a U.S.-led alliance to evict it.

"In our textbooks there is nothing which violates U.N. resolutions," Mr. Bazzaz replied.

"If they (the Kuwaitis) have anything, let them tell us where. We are back to historical facts stated before 1990. Therefore they (such references) are not supposed to be there."

"We tell them issues are moving in accordance to (U.N.) resolutions," he said. "It is time Arab countries closed this chapter and mended fences with Iraq. From our side there is no sensitivity."

New maps will be incorporated in school texts when they are made available by the Foreign Ministry, he said. "I do not think this (the map) is a problem."

Iraq's ruling Revolutionary Command Council, meeting a key condition in Gulf war ceasefire terms, issued a decree on Oct. 10 recognising Kuwait within its U.N.-demarcated borders. It ordered all government departments to put the decree into effect.

Mr. Bazzaz said he had sent copies of the textbooks now in use to the Arab League Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation to show that Iraq was honouring its commitments.

Kuwait to mine waters

Kuwait plans to spread mines in the water near its sea frontier with Iraq to prevent infiltration attempts, a Kuwait newspaper reported on Saturday.

"A military source revealed to Watan that a plan to mine the northern Kuwaiti territorial waters has been prepared," it said. Officials were not available for comment.

Palestinians weigh heavily on Lebanon and its peace options

BEIRUT (AFP) — The Palestinian presence in Lebanon for the last four decades is seen as a heavy political and economic burden in Beirut and influences its stand in the Middle East peace process.

The issue was brought to the fore again on Friday when at least six guerrillas were killed as loyalists of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat tried in vain to regain control of 'Ain Al Hilweh, Lebanon's main refugee camp.

The camp near the southern port city of Sidon is home to 80,000 Palestinians. "If a decision were taken at the expense of Lebanon to solve the problem of Palestinian refugees, Lebanon would ask the Palestinians to leave and other Arab countries to assume their responsibilities," President Elias Hrawi has warned.

Foreign Minister Fares Bouez told AFP last month that it was in Beirut's interest to be "the last to sign peace" with Israel, especially as "the Palestinian presence will be impossible to absorb" for Lebanon.

Some 350,000 Palestinians live in 11 refugee camps. The Palestinian issue has been an important factor in Lebanese politics ever since the creation of the state of

Israel in 1948, when hundreds of thousands of Palestinian refugees fled to Lebanon.

In 1969, Lebanon signed the Cairo agreement, under the auspices of the late Egyptian president Gamal Abdul Nasser, by which it officially accepted an armed Palestinian presence on its soil to fight the Jewish state.

Lebanon paid the price during its 15-year civil war: In 1978, the Israeli army invaded South Lebanon to contain the Syrians and push the Palestinians away from northern Israel.

With the full-scale Israeli invasion of 1982, Lebanon became the scene of the fifth Arab-Israeli war. Israeli troops led by General Ariel Sharon wanted to crush the Palestinian "mini-state in Lebanon" once and for all.

But Mr. Arafat himself escaped from the Beirut inferno and left for the northern town of Tripoli from where he fled in 1983 for Tunis after a Syrian-backed revolt within his own ranks.

A year after the end of Lebanon's 1975-1990 war, the authorities disarmed all the Lebanese militias apart from the Iranian-backed Hizbollah.

In July 1991, the Palestinians were stripped of their heavy weapons. They were left only with rocket-propelled grenades, machine

guns and automatic rifles. But the Oslo accord on Palestinian autonomy, sealed by Mr. Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in September 1993 at the White House, failed to solve the issue of Lebanon's Palestinians.

As opposed to the refugees from the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, the accord made no reference to the Palestinians of 1948, who were the first to flee and constitute by far the majority of refugees living in Lebanon.

The issue of the Palestinian presence in Lebanon — where the refugees are denied Lebanese nationality — has remained unresolved since 1948 and continues to cause concern among the country's various communities.

In August, a plan to resettle 4,000 Palestinian families with the cooperation of the U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) triggered anger from the Christian community.

The 1989 Taif accord which officially brought the Lebanese war to a halt the next year explicitly rejected the permanent settlement of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon.

"Let Yasser Arafat give them a nationality and after that they can leave," is the stern message from Mr. Hrawi.

(Continued on page 7)

EU to host Mideast peace talks

BRUSSELS (AFP) — Israeli and Palestinian negotiators will seek to advance their peace accord and activate pledges of millions of dollars in international aid for the autonomous Palestinian National Authority (PNA) during talks here Monday to Wednesday.

The European Union (EU)-backed talks will be attended by Yasser Arafat, president of the authority, and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, who will meet Monday evening to follow up Israel's recent agreement that elections can be organised in Gaza and the West Bank, officials said.

Diplomatic sources here said the talks would focus on "implementing the next stage of the self-rule agreement, the organisation of elections and the withdrawal of Israeli troops" from the main towns on the West Bank.

On Monday, Mr. Arafat and Mr. Peres will meet the Greek, German and French foreign ministers, the so-called troika representing the past, present and future incumbents of the EU presidency who are in Brussels for a scheduled meeting of foreign ministers.

The Palestinians will be lobbying the international community in Brussels on Tuesday and Wednesday to promises to provide aid to their territories. Mr. Arafat is expected to take part in a meeting of the ad hoc group of donor countries.

"We have received \$70 out of the \$700 million announced for 1994," said Nabil Shaath, a close colleague of Mr. Arafat and the authority's head of planning and international cooperation.

In 1993, donor countries agreed to grant the Palestinians \$2.4 billion over five years.

"The explosion of violence can only be understood in the light of Israeli delays in implementing the agreements and delays in the financial aid promised," he told a Belgian newspaper in a reference to clashes between police and hardline activists which left 14 people dead in Gaza on Nov. 17.

The Palestinian Authority hopes the meeting will lead to the payment of at least \$200 million by the end of the year in addition to the \$70 million already made available, a senior Palestinian official said.

"If the donor countries keep holding back, if they keep on with their drip-feed approach, we will not be able to create the institutions of self-rule" which could put forward infrastructure projects for financing, he said.

The EU has promised 60 million ECUs (\$73 million), half of it to be handed over by the end of the year, a European Commission official said.

"But the grant depends on projects getting under way," he said.



TIMORESE DISSIDENTS. Timorese political refugees chant slogans and jubilate after arriving in Lisbon Friday. The refugees had been in hiding in the U.S. embassy in Jakarta

last week prior to being granted permission to leave the country (AFP photo)

France sees \$100m 'debt-equity' swap with Jordan as trendsetter

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A "debt-equity" swap agreement signed by the governments of France and Jordan, involving \$100 million of the Kingdom's debts to Paris, is the first such accord signed between Amman and any of its creditors and could help set a precedent for others, a senior French diplomat said Saturday.

Michel Duger, economic and commercial counsellor at the French embassy, said the swap agreement was signed along with a separate debt rescheduling accord involving another \$200 million of Jordanian debts to France during a recent visit Finance Minister Sami Gammoh paid to Paris.

Mr. Duger, addressing a press conference announcing the opening of a French commercial exhibition in Amman (see page 3), said of the debt-swap accord: "It is the first such accord signed by Jordan and any of its creditor governments, and, if it works out well, such arrangements could help Jordan reduce its debt substantially."

France, which holds about \$600 million of Jordan's foreign debts of \$6.8 billion, has also extended a write-off of \$5 million to the Kingdom as a token gesture of its goodwill towards Amman. (The \$600 million figure does not include outstanding pay-

ments on French aircraft leased by Royal Jordanian, the national carrier. At the end of 1993, the dues were around \$400 million).

The "debt-equity" swap accord means that anyone interested in investing in Jordan could buy Jordanian dinars at a discounted rate and the funds would be made available in Jordan for the buyer in local currency to buy capital in Jordanian ventures, Mr. Duger explained.

The French diplomat did not say what the applicable discount rate was. (The investment climate and potential capital risks as well as returns on investments are the main parameters that influence the rate in most similar cases).

Mr. Duger noted that French firms were interested in doing business in Jordan and perhaps also invest in the Kingdom, and said the swap accord could encourage some of them to actually invest here. He did not say whether any specific proposal was in the pipeline.

However, he indicated that French investments of any major size would be slow in coming. The Jordanian market is too small and this is a negative factor affecting possibilities of joint ventures, he said.

In addition, he noted, "the Palestinian situation (in the occupied territories) is not fully settled, unfortunately. And the problem of Iraq is also pending."

The rescheduling of \$200 million in Jordan's dues to France as well as the swap accord came in line with a broad agreement reached between Jordan and the Paris Club of creditor governments in June this year covering about \$1.21 billion of the Kingdom's obligations.

The amount covers dues until mid-1996, when further negotiations and possible rescheduling agreements are expected.

Jordan is seeking debt relief from its creditors. It has already secured a write-off of \$702 million from the United States spread over three years, \$50 million from Germany, \$25 million from Switzerland and smaller amounts from other European countries.

According to diplomatic sources, the Spanish government is considering a debt relief package for Jordan including an as yet-determined part of it in exchange for equity in the Kingdom along the same lines of the Franco-Jordanian accord. Jordan owes Spain about \$92 million.

Mr. Duger said France was keenly interested in raising its involvement in the Jordanian economy even before the Kingdom signed a peace treaty with Israel in last month.

Now that the peace process had borne fruit, Mr. Duger said, he expected French companies to make their present felt more in Jordan.

Indian force quits Baidoa

MOGADISHU (R) — The last of thousands of Indian peacekeepers withdrew on Saturday from the inland Somalia town of Baidoa, leaving residents fearful of a resurgence of clan violence.

U.N. military spokesman Major Zubair Chatha told reporters that the Indian troops had handed over major facilities such as the airport to the U.N.-trained Somali police force.

But many fear the police will be outgunned — or simply join in the fight — if clan militias decide to battle over control of the airport and other parts of the town, which is in the centre of Somalia's most fertile farming region.

The peacekeepers became popular in the southern port of Kismayu where they treated tens of thousands of Somalis at their hospital, took care of orphans and helped revive the nomad's livestock herds.

On Saturday, they withdrew to the capital Mogadishu by road unhindered. There have been widespread fears that the 15,000 U.N. troops still in Somalia would be attacked by militias as they withdraw ahead of the March 31 deadline set by the Security Council.

Indian troops from the 5,000-strong contingent serving with the U.N. in Somalia are also due to leave Kismayu on Wednesday.

If clan violence does erupt, aid workers and Somalis say it is most likely to take place in Kismayu, where allies of Mogadishu warlord Mohammed Farah Aided could attack the rival militias of Mohammed Said Hersi "Morgan".

Mr. Morgan's followers have loose control of Kismayu city and are likely to move into the airport and port as Indian troops leave by ship.

General Aided's allies could then move in from the northern approach. Clan fighting in recent months has already displaced thousands of civilians in the fertile lands of the Jubba River valley inland from Kismayu.

U.N. efforts to broker peace between the warring factions have failed since U.S.-led troops were first in to end a famine that killed 300,000 and restore order in 1992.

In the breakthrough north-west of Somalia, aid workers were able to visit the town of Hargeisa for the first time since clan fighting erupted there nearly two weeks ago.

The aid workers said they had seen some 79 war casualties in Hargeisa's hospital. Of those, 23 had died, including four children caught in the crossfire.

The United Nations has flown relief supplies, including tents and blankets to the village of Burama west of Hargeisa to help civilians who fled the fighting.

Relief operations are being led by the U.N. Children's Fund although several other U.N. and independent relief groups also work in the region.

Aid workers have described reports that thousands of refugees are on the move into neighbouring Ethiopia as exaggerated.

They said that people had started returning to their homes in Hargeisa, where fighting between clan militias had died down.

Buckingham Palace to reveal royal accounts

LONDON (AFP) — Buckingham Palace is to publish annual accounts detailing how £20 million (\$31 million) of taxpayers' money is spent running the royal household, official sources said Friday.

The first annual report will be published next July in line with a government recommendation. The move follows a report by the public accounts committee of parliament's lower house in September which called for greater "public visibility" of how such so-called grant-in-aid is spent.

A government response to the all-party committee's report Friday recommended publication of the royal household's reports and annual accounts. A palace spokesman said the royal family had nothing to hide and would be delighted to publish a full annual report.

The spending levels hit the headlines earlier this year when Queen Elizabeth authorised her advisers to seek legal advice following "misleading and inaccurate" media reports of the committee's findings. The grant-in-aid is spent on maintaining occupied royal palaces and also covers the cost of gas, electricity, water and telephones. "An annual report will be published," said the palace spokesman. "There is a good story to tell and the household will be pleased to tell it."

"We believe in openness — we have nothing to hide." The Department of National Heritage had the right to see all papers and these, in turn, could be passed to the National Audit Office, parliament's public spending watchdog, for a scrutiny. Royal household officials in charge of grant-in-aid would continue to be subject to parliamentary scrutiny and examination by the public accounts committee, the spokesman said.

The queen's director of finance and property services, Michael Peat, has already been questioned by the House of Commons committee whose report, despite some media coverage, was largely complimentary to the royal household.

Finland is 1st country to wipe out mumps, measles

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Finland has become the first country to virtually eradicate three common childhood illnesses — mumps, measles and German measles, according to a new report. Thanks to a vaccination campaign launched in 1982 aimed at covering the country's 1.5 million children and young adults, the country nearly wiped out all three illnesses in a decade, Finnish researchers reported in the New England Journal of Medicine's latest issue. The incidence of the three diseases has dropped 99 per cent. The number of cases of measles reported, for instance, fell from 344 in 1985 to 317 in 1987 and was only 13 last year. There are now only some 30 cases of all three diseases combined reported in the country each year, and they are believed to have been brought into the country from elsewhere, said one of the researchers, Heikki Peltola. Finland's success in eliminating the diseases, which are still widespread in developing countries, could serve as a model for a worldwide vaccination campaign.

Clinton saves Madonna and Child stamp

WASHINGTON (AFP) — President Bill Clinton has saved the popular Madonna and Child Christmas stamp after learning that the postal service planned to cancel it. Mr. Clinton was very upset when Postmaster General Marvin Runyon announced plans last week to scrap the stamp in 1995, ending an almost 30-year-old tradition, the Washington Post quoted White House sources as saying. And the Post Office agreed to reprieve the stamp after Mr. Clinton wrote a letter to Runyon pleading its cause, backed by a threat to make the letter public if the Post Office did not reconsider. Now the Madonna and Child will go on sale again next year, along with five new stamps showing Santa Claus and children opening gifts.

Bhutto demands reward for restraint

LONDON (AFP) — Pakistan is a model of Islamic moderation and nuclear restraint and should be rewarded if it is to resist extremist pressures, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said in an interview in Saturday's Times.

"Pakistan, since 1990 has seen a cut-off of aid. It has still not detonated a nuclear device, or exported nuclear technology. It has shown respect. For what? For further criticism? Or for recognition and reward?"

There's a growing movement within Pakistan that says if you're not getting anywhere for being good guys, then what's the point? said Ms. Bhutto in the interview published on the eve of her official visit to Britain.

"I conducted a poll and 90 per cent thought Pakistan should detonate a nuclear device."

"It's a dangerous situation. Pakistan has showed restraint. This should be recognised and rewarded."

"If I am, the forces of moderation will be thrown to one side and the forces of extremism will take over. We have a lot of extremists around. We don't want another Bosnia," Ms. Bhutto said.

"(Pakistan is) the only moderate Muslim country in the region. It's very important to support moderation in the Muslim World. Pakistan could be a role model."

Ms. Bhutto said she was frustrated at the continued

NEWS IN BRIEF

Turkey denies Belarus spying charge

ISTANBUL (R) — The Turkish Foreign Ministry Saturday denied charges by Belarus that two Turkish diplomats had engaged in spying. "Apart from working to advance relations between Belarus and Turkey our Minsk embassy has not involved in any other activity," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement. Belarus officials said on Friday that two Turkish diplomats in Minsk, who had the rank of attaché, would be expelled for "actions incompatible with diplomatic activities," the common phrase used to denote spying. The former Soviet republic's KGB security police said in a statement that on Thursday a Belarus citizen "who had been recruited by Turkish agents" was detained. "On Nov. 24 in Minsk there was an attempt to transfer intelligence material to Turkish special service agents acting under the cover of the Turkish embassy in Belarus," said the statement, published in Minsk newspaper on Friday. Turkey said the decision by Belarus would "certainly have a negative effect" on relations between the two countries.

Iran to export 1m tonnes of farm goods

NICOSIA (R) — Iran expects to export more than one million tonnes of agricultural goods, mostly pistachio nuts, vegetables and fruit, by the end of the current Iranian year, a newspaper reported on Saturday. A Tehran Times report by the Iran news agency quoted Deputy Minister of Agriculture for animal husbandry Ali Reza Taleae as saying agricultural exports are expected to reach 63 billion riyals (\$36 million) by March 20, 1995. Agricultural exports have grown 23 per cent in the past six months and account for one third of Iran's income, he said.

Germany lifts freeze on Kurd expulsions

MAGDEBURG, Germany (R) — A meeting of German regional interior minister opened the way on Friday for deportation to Turkey of more rejected Kurdish asylum seekers by failing to agree a unified line on the issue. Several states governed by the Social Democrats (SPD), who are in opposition in Bonn, had suspended deportations against the wishes of federal Interior Minister Manfred Kanther, saying the refugees risked torture or imprisonment on their return. Mr. Kanther, whose government wants to speed up deportations to reduce the number of asylum seekers, said he would only impose a nationwide freeze if all 16 states decided at Friday's meeting that they wanted one. In setting the precondition, Mr. Kanther knew well that the conservative-ruled states headed by Bavaria would adamantly oppose such a freeze. Brandenburg State Interior Minister Alwin Ziel confirmed to reporters that the states had failed to reach agreement. He said that, in future, the SPD-ruled states which imposed their freezes in May would have to return to case-by-case assessment of the claims of individual Turkish Kurds who failed to get political asylum.

(Continued on page 7)